

25/09/1998

Monday September 14 1998

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The Guardian

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Censure and fine in return for full confession could lead US out of crisis

Clinton deal to keep power

Martin Kettle in Washington

THE makings of a compromise solution to the crisis that has engulfed Bill Clinton's presidency since the publication of the Starr report began to emerge in Washington yesterday.

Though far from certain, and not yet formally discussed or agreed, the compromise would involve a formal congressional censure motion against Mr Clinton as well as other punishment, in return for an full presidential confession and the abandonment of Mr Clinton's campaign to clear himself legally of the charges in the report, submitted to Congress on Friday by Kenneth Starr, the special counsel.

The deal, if approved by all sides, would enable Mr Clinton to see out the remainder

of his presidential term, though it would keep him under a permanent cloud and with reduced authority until he quits the White House in January 2001.

Mr Clinton is believed to have discussed the possibility of some kind of "plea bargain" with Congress in a 20-minute telephone conversation with the Senate Judiciary committee chairman, Senator Orrin Hatch, yesterday.

The suggestions of a compromise came as Washington continued in try to come to terms with the awesome political and constitutional implications of Friday's decision by the House of Representatives to begin formal consideration of 11 Starr accusations against the president.

These include perjury, witness tampering and obstruction of justice, allegedly committed in Mr Clinton's efforts to cover up his sexual relationship with a former

White House worker, Monica Lewinsky.

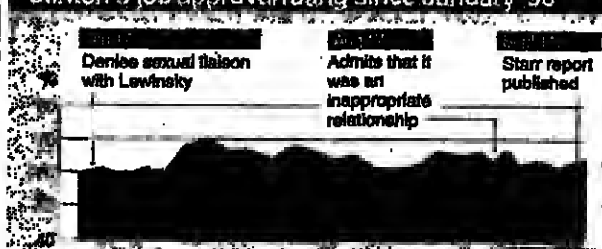
In the absence of any agreement to strike a bargain, the White House continued to attack Mr Starr's 445 pages of findings as "a hit-and-run smear campaign", while some Republicans declared that Mr Clinton should face impeachment over the findings.

Following its Friday "pre-buttal" attack before Mr Starr's accusations were published, the White House at the weekend published a line-by-line rebuttal of the independent counsel's actual text.

About three-quarters of Americans have yet to read the Starr report in any detail, poll analysts estimate.

"It is plain that 'sex' is precisely what this 4½-year investigation has boiled down to," the White House's latest 42-page rebuttal said, denying that any misdeed of any substance had been found by the Starr inquiry. But the general

Clinton's job approval rating since January '98



tone of Washington's wall-to-wall weekend television network punditry — as well as of a series of new opinion polls — was that a deal is there to be struck, provided all sides want it enough.

Two senior Republicans, whose party controls both houses of Congress, held out the possibility of a solution yesterday. Senator Hatch called on the president to abandon his claim not to have lied under oath in an affidavit

trouble — legal niceties, and trying to explain problems that can't just be dismissed.

But the phrase in Mr Starr's report that sparked immediate speculation about a compromise deal came when he added: "He may need to come to the Congress and say, you know, how can this be resolved? But if he begins the process with attacks, and says this [Starr report] is just a smear, that doesn't help."

Two of Mr Clinton's former close colleagues said yesterday that they supported a censure-motion compromise. Mr Clinton's former adviser, George Stephanopoulos, said that the way out could be censure plus a fine, as happened to the House of Representatives Speaker, Newt Gingrich, fined \$300,000 (£180,000), over an ethics violation in 1997.

The former labour secretary, Robert Reich, who has a 30-year friendship with Mr

Clinton, also called for censure. "There's not going to be impeachment," Mr Reich said. "My presumption is that he's going to be censured. The question is how to get beyond this. There has to be acknowledgment that you can't go around lying."

The emerging interest in censure came as the latest opinion polls showed a desire for some form of severe action against Mr Clinton but reluctance in back impeachment.

The latest Gallup poll for CNN television and USA Today showed 59 per cent support for censure of Mr Clinton with 31 per cent against, and 64 per cent rejecting impeachment, with 30 per cent for. Separate Newsweek and ABC television polls got similar findings. Mr Clinton's job approval ratings as president remained broadly unchanged at 62 per cent in the Gallup poll, after the Starr report.

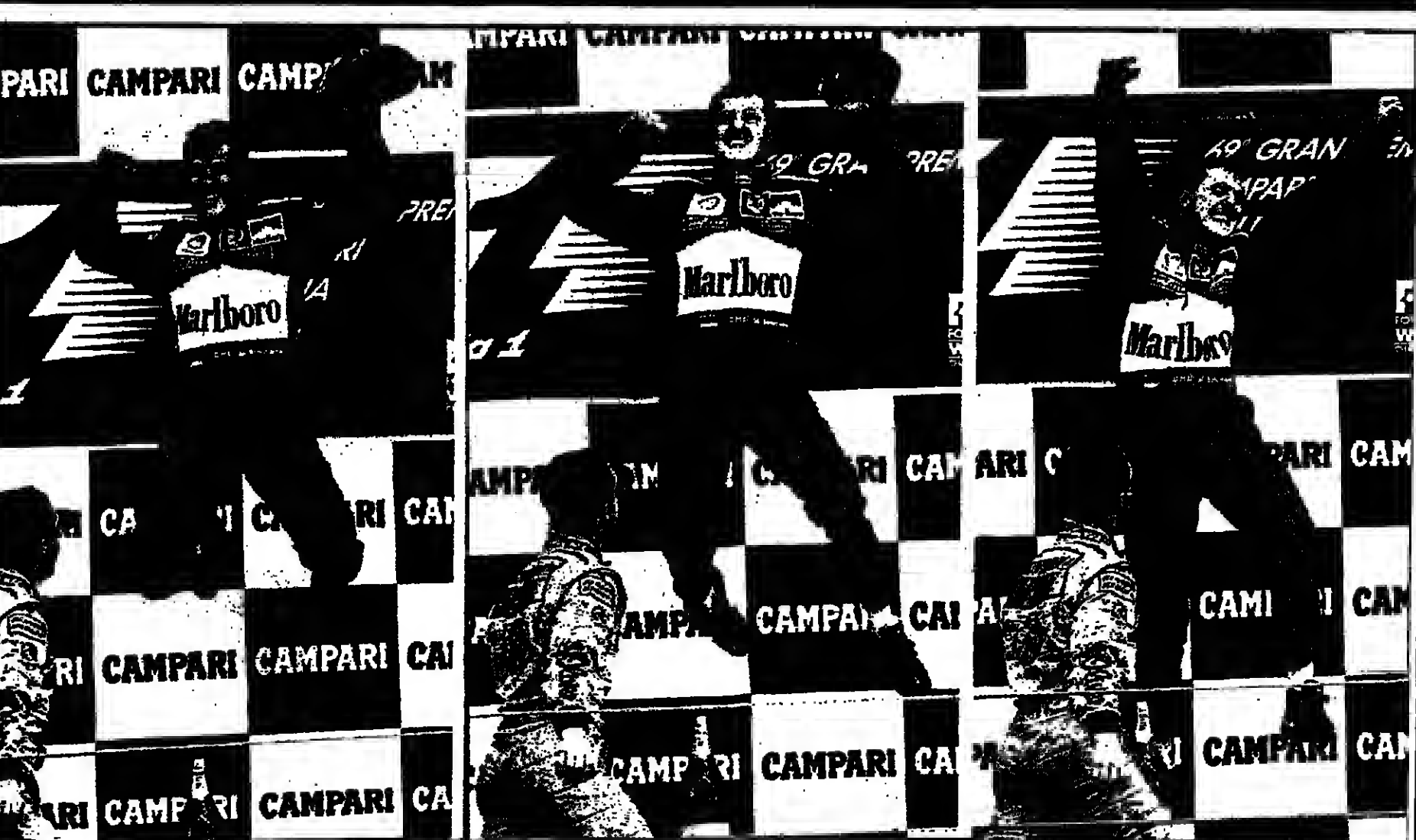
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Follow the latest developments on the Clinton crisis at http://reports.guardian.co.uk/sp_reports/Clinton/index.html

The Starr report in full is at: <http://reports.guardian.co.uk/starr>

Winning formula



Michael Schumacher jumps for joy after winning the Italian Grand Prix at Monza yesterday, watched by brother Ralph, who finished third. Report, Sport, page 24. PHOTOGRAPH: OLIVER MUTHAUF

Mandelson: job losses on way

PETER Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has warned the Cabinet to brace itself for substantial job losses across industrial Britain, it emerged yesterday.

In a bleak message on the Cabinet "away day" at Chequers last Thursday, he said the global financial turmoil, flat productivity and rising earnings were bound to build pressure on jobs.

The Government would need a co-ordinated programme to help those affected, he told ministers. This should include assistance with job search and retraining, intervention to find buyers for closed plants and long term regeneration efforts.

"Government can't bail out businesses," Mr Mandelson said yesterday. "But we should do everything we can to help the individuals and local communities affected. Government already does a lot, but with greater co-ordination we could achieve more."

Mr Mandelson, who is speaking at the TUC conference on Thursday, conceded at last week's Cabinet get-together that export markets were weakening and more firms were buying in cheaper goods from abroad. The worst impact is expected to be on price-sensitive manufacturing in the Midlands and North-west, with heavy losses in engineering, motor components, clothing and textiles.

TUC agenda, page 5; Leader comment, page 9

Rival takeover bid launched for Manchester Utd

Mystery client raises the stakes with '£700m offer' for top club

Roger Cowe and Stuart Miller

RUFERT Murdoch was last night facing growing competition in the battle to buy Manchester United, as new bidders prepared to challenge the £624 million takeover launched last week by BSkyB.

Salomon Smith Barney, the US investment bank, confirmed that it is acting for an unnamed client which is considering an alternative offer

comment on the kind of business it is involved in.

The United board, however, would have a legal duty to consider the possibility of a higher bid.

The emergence of what could become a bidding war for United comes after disquiet over the Sky deal, which would see the dominant sports broadcaster taking over the most powerful club.

If successful, the takeover would give Mr Murdoch a seat on both sides of the table when lucrative domestic and European television rights came up for negotiation over the next two years.

The revelation of the bid sparked a burst of activity by

other media companies desperate to prevent Mr Murdoch from establishing an iron grip on football broadcasting rights.

Last Thursday, it emerged that Carlton Communications, which owns the ITV companies Carlton and Central, had launched an attempt to tie up with last year's Premiership champions and FA cup holders, Arsenal. It was also believed to be in talks with Aston Villa on a deal involving screening matches on a pay-per-view basis.

Southampton has announced it is open to offer from media companies and Sony was reported yesterday to be considering a £220 million bid for Newcastle United. The club dismissed the report.

Analysts have predicted that other media groups would challenge BSkyB's takeover of United, even though the bid has been accepted by the United board.

Only Martin Edwards, the soccer club's chief executive, has pledged to stick with the satellite company even if a higher offer is made. Other directors would be free to switch allegiance to an alternative bidder, and would be certain to recommend a higher offer to shareholders.

Mr Edwards owns 14 per cent of the shares, while BSkyB has bought a further 9

per cent. But that means the broadcaster must win more than a quarter of the club's shares if it is to secure victory.

Some United shareholders believe the 24p per share offer undervalues the club.

PDFM, the City fund management company, said last week that it might vote against the takeover because the club's prospects justified a higher price. That calculation is based on the riches to be gained from the planned European Super League, which would attract massive television audiences and transform the club's finances.

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The Clinton crisis

The constitution is silent on the question of whether a sitting president may be indicted, and Mr Starr has chosen not to test that issue.
Columnist R.W. Apple Jr.

They look at their leader and

THE US PUBLIC: A deluge of sordid details is starting to have an inescapable effect.
Jonathan Freedland reports

SO NOW Americans know Bill Clinton did not lie; he remained standing the whole time. They know because it's spelled out in black and white in Chapter 1, Section C, Part 2 of America's latest publishing hit, the 445-page Starr Report: "During many of their sexual encounters, the president stood leaning against the doorway of the bathroom of the study, which, he told Ms Lewinsky, eased his sore back."

Details like that are now circulating in the American bloodstream, along with the

mechanics of the presidential lies (Monica found them hard to undo), Mr Clinton's fear of old age and incontinence ("What are we going to do when I'm 75 and I have to pee 25 times a day?" he asked her) and Hillary Clinton's apparent unwillingness to perform oral sex (after one session, the president told the young intern "that he hadn't had that in a long time").

This weekend Americans have felt like the Uma Thurman character in *Pulp Fiction*, collectively declaring that they have heard "too much information". For they are learning about more than just the sexual predilections

of their president. Through wall-to-wall coverage on television, voluminous extra sections in their newspapers and informal kitchen-table conversations across the land, Americans are finally discovering who Bill Clinton really is. And they don't like what they see.

"The picture of Clinton that now emerges is that of a middle-aged man with a pathetic inability to control his sexual fancies," opined the *Los Angeles Times*. Until now, agreed the liberal *New York Times*, "no citizen could have grasped the completeness of President Clinton's mendacity or the magnitude of his recklessness."

If after the death of Robert Kennedy mourners used to cry out, "Bobby, we hardly knew you," today's Americans are beginning to mutter: "Billy, we know you too well."

It's not just the fact of an

adulterous affair that's making Americans reth. The details themselves are turning opinion formers and others against the president. In one example, the report reveals that after several intimate encounters, Ms Lewinsky felt obliged to introduce herself to Mr Clinton — anxious that he might have forgotten her name. Americans are asking: what kind of man is this?

But stirring the greatest disgust is the pattern of deceit laid bare in the Starr report. One episode has particularly caught the eye of the punditocracy that dominates so much of US political life. On page 242 of the report, a conversation is recounted between Mr Clinton and one of his senior spin doctors, Sidney Blumenthal, around the time the Lewinsky allegations broke in January.

The president tells Mr Blumenthal there was no affair, claiming instead that the in-



tern had come on to him, that he had refused her and that she was now threatening him, acting "like a stalker". Mr Clinton goes on to compare himself with Nicholas Rubashov, the protagonist in the Arthur Koestler novel *Dark*

'This is a knowing, deliberate, systematic pattern of mendacity by the president'

ness at Noon, who is hounded to his death by the persecutors of a police state. "I feel like somebody who is surrounded by an oppressive force that is creating a lie about me and I can't get the truth out," the president says.

In just a few sentences Mr Clinton lies, smears a young woman he has used for his sexual gratification and then wallows in self-pity and grandiose self-dramatisation. And it's the sheer selfishness of such behaviour which is arousing greatest hostility against the president, the sense that "it's always about Bill" — that everyone else, including the country, can suffer so long as Bill Clinton survives. As Republican whip Tom de Lay said yesterday, calling on the president to resign: "It's time he put the American people ahead of himself."

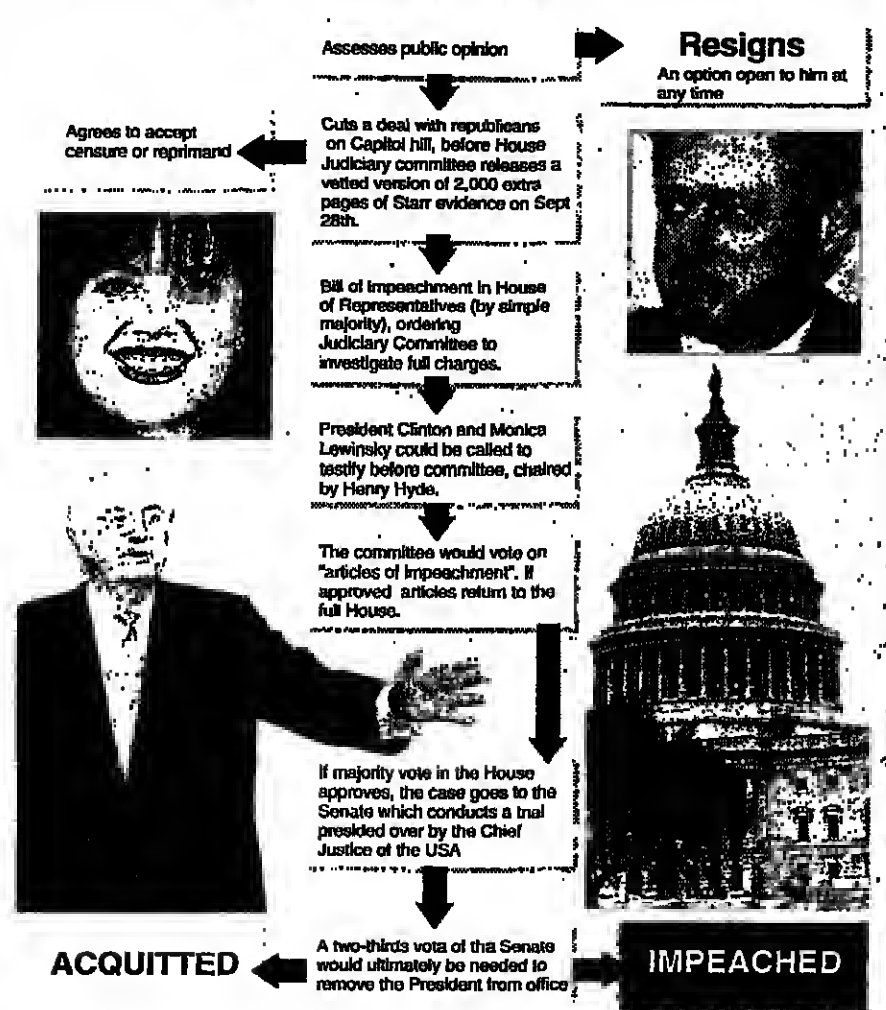
Others were harsher. "This is a knowing, deliberate, systematic pattern of mendacity by the president," said Bill Kristol, editor of the pro-Republican *Weekly Standard*. His fellow conservative columnist George Will was even more scathing. "Maybe [the president] was morally

younger than the intern," he suggested, adding that Mr Clinton's offences were so squalid, he was barely worthy of the mighty machinery of impeachment. "It'd be like shooting an insect with a Howitzer," Will said.

Particular fury is directed at the president's fondness for evasion by wordplay, his preference for hair-splitting legalisms over straightforward truth-telling. The habit is in the spotlight now because it is still at work: yesterday Mr Clinton's lawyers fanned out across the battery of Sunday morning talk shows — the current affairs gabfests which often set the US political mood for the following week — to argue that, although their client had indeed made misleading statements under oath, ones which might even count as false testimony, they stopped short of perjury.

Thus viewers were treated

The Long Road to Impeachment — Clinton's options



The view on the streets: a Washington newspaper kiosk displays papers carrying the details of the Starr report at the weekend

PHOTOGRAPH: DAN LOH

Fight, flight or a slap across the wrist

THE OPTIONS: Congress and the White House tread a wary path to try to find a solution to the crisis. **R.W. Apple reports**

AS PRESIDENT Clinton starts down a fateful road with many forks, he will want to walk as slowly as he can. It would be surprising if he made definitive decisions quickly. Public opinion coalesces slowly, and public opinion will ultimately prove sovereign.

It will guide Congress in its deliberations, as well as the president, but its shape may not be completely clear for a week or more.

A first option open to the president is an effort to strike a deal with the Republican congressional leadership that would cut short the bruising legal process that looms ahead by agreeing to a censure or reprimand. His lawyers bobbed and weaved on that possibility on Friday, but they did not rule it out.

Not much was said about the possibility on Capitol Hill this weekend, partly because it is not clear who could deliver the House for a deal. Certainly, it would need the

backing of House Speaker Newt Gingrich. But even with his support, it would be no cinch: the Republican ranks are full of hard-edged conservatives — some call them Clinton-haters — who want impeachment to move ahead. Nonetheless, a White House aide said on Saturday that an approach to Congress was under active informal consideration. He said Mr Clinton was desperate to avoid becoming the third president (after Andrew Johnson and Richard M. Nixon) to face impeachment proceedings and the second, after Nixon, driven from office.

The subject of an early presidential resignation, said Senator Bob Kerrey, Democrat of Nebraska, recently, is babbling "right below the surface".

In those contentions lies the heart of a defence that would make protracted, probably hotly partisan congressional proceedings inevitable. The question is, how long will Mr Clinton have the stomach for all of that? It would take a heavy toll on him, his family, his staff, his party and his programme.

If the president chooses to fight on, for a time or to the very end, his capacity to exercise the powers of the presidency would inevitably wane, as the fight with Congress absorbed his attention and his energies. At some point along the way, resignation might

seem an increasingly appealing way out. There are evident arguments in favour of resignation. It would staunch the bleeding, and let Mr Clinton recover from his wounds. He would retain his pension and Secret Service protection and he would be entitled to government-paid staff, all of which he would lose if convicted by the Senate. He could busy himself organising a presidential library.

But resignation runs against the American grain. One of the things that sets US government apart from par-

liamentary government is that presidents do not usually resign when they lose the confidence of the legislature. Sometimes they decide not to seek another term; sometimes they seek one and lose. But they do not resign. Nixon was the sole exception in two centuries.

Presidents worry about precedents that might hobble their successors, and resignation by any president, like impeachment and conviction, sets a precedent by defining types of behavior that are unacceptable in the Oval Office. Mr Clinton's lawyers and advisers express concerns not unlike that voiced at the height of the Watergate crisis by one of Nixon's defenders, Representative Charles Wiggins, who represented Nixon's former congressional district.

"Just what is abusive conduct?" Mr Wiggins asked. "I suggest that it is an empty

phrase, having meaning only in terms of what we pour into it." In this president's case, there is another strong disincentive. Judging from the intensely prosecutorial tone of Mr Starr's report to Congress, Mr Clinton would almost certainly face immediate indictment on several counts. The Constitution is silent on the question of whether a sitting president may be indicted, and Mr Starr has chosen not to test that issue.

But presidents who resign are subject to criminal prosecution, like those who leave office through impeachment and conviction, defeat or expiration of term.

Only a pardon would shield Mr Clinton from indictment if he were to resign. If he decided to fight things out on Capitol Hill, on the other hand, he would have a chance of mustering enough votes to avoid impeachment or conviction, thereby clinging to office, however diminished his powers.

So any serious consideration of resignation would probably have to wait a clearer picture of the president's chances of surviving the coming assault in Congress.

But suppose that, after three months, things look bleak. What then about a resignation and pardon?

Legally speaking, Mr Clinton could pardon himself and resign. But that option could have destructive consequences for the Democratic party. Or he could try to cut a deal with Vice President Al Gore to pardon him after Mr Gore had succeeded him.

But Mr Clinton would doubt his chances of getting a pardon. And that would make him less likely to resign and face the prospect of indictment at the hands of Mr Starr.

— New York Times

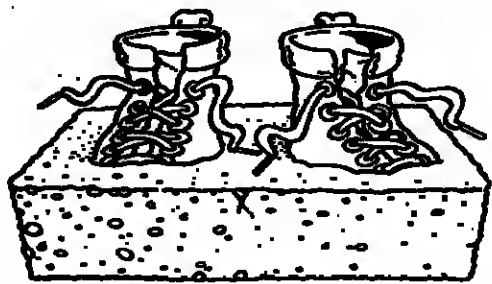
'Look at his record; he never quits even when it might make sense.' But they said exactly the same thing about Nixon a quarter-century ago

was intended only to punish "the most serious form of wrongdoing and the president's sexual promiscuity was 'personal, not impeachable.' They firmly rejected charges that Clinton had committed perjury, tampered with witnesses or obstructed justice.

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The Clinton crisis

they don't like what they see

to the surreal sight of besuited man arguing — with straight faces — that receiving oral sex is not sex and that it was perfectly possible for Ms Lewinsky to remember having her breasts fondled and her genitalia stimulated to orgasm and for the president to remember no such thing and for both to be telling the truth. The intellectual contortions and casuistry being demanded of the White House legal team are so great, their gymnastics would almost be amusing if they were not so appalling.

For Americans it has all come as a reminder of a side of the Clinton character most would rather forget. This, they are remembering, is the same man who denied a 12-year affair with Gennifer Flowers — because it did not last exactly 12 years; the same man who described Ms Flowers as "a woman I never slept with" because he

literally never fell asleep with her. The Clinton biographer David Maraniss suggested in yesterday's Washington Post that the president is a man who has dissembled to cover his chronic sexual recklessness for so long, he is now all but unable to distinguish truth from lies. "Perhaps Clinton has become so habitual in his methods that they are no longer an act of deception," he wrote.

But others in the nation's media are less understanding. Having taken the weekend to absorb the report, their judgment is hardening. The Philadelphia Inquirer, Detroit Free Press, Des Moines Register, Denver Post and Orlando Sentinel are among those demanding the president step down — even if they are not leading a front-page drumbeat of the kind that would be expected in the equivalent situation in Britain.

While Fleet Street would be making a similarly errant prime minister's life hell — with page one comment demanding his head — the US papers have stuck to their usual, sober ways: keeping editorial verdicts confined to the opinion pages with thorough, non-sensationalist reporting of the Starr material on the front and inside. Indeed, several US TV networks have been showing viewers Britain's front pages, marvelling at their forthrightness.

But with such seriousness comes an extra gravity. In a solemn editorial, the twin papers of Atlanta, the Journal and Constitution, said they had convened their editorial boards and after a lengthy discussion had finally decided the president was unfit to serve. "The American people seems doomed to a guided tour of hell," said the papers. By sacrificing the job

he coveted his entire life, the president "could spare the nation that trauma. Resignation is the only responsible option."

The politicians themselves are holding their fire. Some claim they will need months to weigh the evidence before making their solemn decision. But the candid ones admit they need to sense the national mood first, and it is still desperately divided. Not in the usual way, when two firm camps form — as they did during the Q. J. Simpson trial. This time individuals themselves are torn down the middle: repelled by the president's behaviour, but reluctant to believe they can overturn the result of a national election all because of events set in train by a single, uncorrupted affair.

There are other options under discussion. Democrats are leaning toward censure, a formal congressional reprimand which would leave Mr Clinton in office. Voters may well like that, for the latest opinion polls suggest two in three Americans do not want the president to resign or be impeached. Some have suggested that Mr Clinton should



'Perhaps Clinton has become so habitual in his methods that they are no longer an act of deception'

pay a fine as well — a penalty for having wasted so much time and taxpayers' money by stonewalling.

A wackier proposal — aired on NBC's Meet the Press yesterday — is for the president to invoke the 25th Amend-

ment of the Constitution and to step aside as if temporarily incapacitated. "Five women have complained about the president's sexual conduct," began NBC anchor Tim Russert, "should be step aside for six to eight weeks and seek counselling and therapy and let President [Al] Gore run the country?"

All this 24-hour angling and talk of national trauma may seem excessive, until one recalls that the American presidency is more than a political job, more than the head of the US government. The president is the one person chosen by the entire American people; they nominate him to be the embodiment of their nation. That is why he is cheered and applauded even by his political enemies when he appears on Capitol Hill to present his annual State of the Union address to Congress. So long as he is in the White House, the president is the symbol of America. In him they see themselves.

Risk of a power vacuum

WORLD VIEW: Fears growing about how the US situation could have knock-on effects elsewhere. Ian Black reports

WORLD leaders from Tony Blair to Binyamin Netanyahu expressed support for Bill Clinton over the weekend, hoping that the Monica Lewinsky scandal would not paralyse policy at the heart of the world's only superpower. But with crises simmering from Russia to Iraq, and stock markets collapsing in Latin America, fears grew that the preoccupation with Mr Clinton's future — and questions about his character, leadership and judgment — could create a vacuum.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany said the world situation was too complicated and dangerous for the president to be paralysed. He told the newspaper Bild am Sonntag: "Asia, Africa, India, there are problems everywhere. I can only hope that turbulence in Washington can be put at rest as quickly as possible so that the president is fully capable of performing his tasks."

Mr Clinton made some attempt to counter these fears, taking a supportive phone call from Mr Blair on Friday even as the world was poring over the details of the Starr report, and talking to Boris Yeltsin on Saturday. Mr Blair told the president he was thinking about him and expressed his understanding of his plight. Perhaps the strongest endorsement came from Mr Netanyahu. "I hope and imagine it will end swiftly and enable the United States to do what all of us want it to do as a world power, as a free country leading the world, to help remove the threats and advance peace in the world, including the Middle East."



Man in the middle... Bill Clinton, with the White House communications director Ann Lewis (centre) and, leaves a meeting with Jewish organisations in Washington yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH MARK WILSON

Home town menu — 'Bill's special' with a side order of indignation

LOCAL OPINION: In Little Rock, Arkansas, there is both heated feeling and boredom, Mike Williams reports

LUCILLE Robinson gets so mad when you ask her about Bill Clinton's problems she looks like she could grill one of her famous steaks without using a stove. "I don't think there's anybody in Washington, D.C. that can say a thing about what he's done because they're all living in glass houses," said Ms Robinson, her face twisting with a frown as she watched the last of the lunch crowd at Doe's Eat Place filter out the door. "If you spent \$40 million investigating everybody else up there, you'd find a whole lot of stuff going on."

Ms Robinson is hardly an objective source on Bill Clinton, she cooked for him when he was a Doe's regular as Arkansas governor and when he was elected president. She attended his inauguration ball, even posing for an Annie Leibowitz portrait that now graces Doe's wall. But plenty of Arkansians

share her outrage over what they see as the never-ending persecution of Mr Clinton. Plenty of others, though, are just as outraged at the President. "He's an embarrassment to Arkansas and the United States," said Tom Hamm, 38, a salesman who enjoys the down-home atmosphere and heaped servings at Doe's just like the president. "What he did in the Oval Office is disgusting. You've got a guy like Ronald Reagan who wouldn't even go in there without a coat and tie and now this guy goes in for this. It shows a real lack of class."

This bustling capital city was Bill Clinton's home for nearly 20 years before he was elected president in 1992. Across town at Juanita's, a Mexican restaurant where Mr Clinton favoured chicken enchiladas, the manager, Cheryl Walker, said: "I'm tired of them wasting my tax dollars on

this. If Hillary doesn't have a problem with it, neither do I. Do they expect him and all his family to be perfect? Jesus couldn't even be president now."

Bill Clinton was born 100 miles away in the tiny town of Hope, and grew up in Hot Springs, a resort about an hour west of Little Rock. He went off to Georgetown and Yale Law School, won a Rhodes scholarship, then came home and worked his way up through the political ranks, serving 12 years as governor. In many ways, he has put Arkansas and shouldn't be impeached for his personal life," said Mark Gee, who works the burger assembly line. "I think Monica Lewinsky was just waiting for an opportunity."



The exhibition is open at the Royal Academy of Arts, London from 23 January to 18 April 1999 — make sure you don't miss it.

The exhibition was organised by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Royal Academy of Arts, London. The Grand Canal, 1908. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Beyond of Alexander Cadogan. Photo © 1996 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Yellow and Lake Water Lilies, 1914-17. The Toledo Museum of Art. Purchased with funds from the Library Endowment, Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey. Photo Image Source.

Stunning scenes of Monet's garden and bridge at Giverny, atmospheric views of Venice and London, and some of the monumental water lily paintings — the triumph of his career — will be on show.

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The Clinton crisis

The Starr report is so loaded with irrelevant and unnecessary graphic and salacious allegations that only one conclusion is possible: its principal purpose is to damage the president.

White House response

Defence battles against 'a lurid, loaded smear'



A videotape of Bill Clinton with Monica Lewinsky at a Democrat fund-raising event in Washington in May 1996

REBUTTAL: Clinton's lawyers accuse Starr report of going sex-mad, and finding nothing to justify ousting elected leader

The following is an edited text of the White House response to the Starr report

ON MAY 31, 1998, the spokesman for Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, declared that the Monica Lewinsky investigation "is not about sex. This case is about perjury, subornation of perjury, witness tampering, obstruction of justice. That is what this case is about."

It is plain that "sex" is precisely what this 44-year investigation has boiled down to.

The Referral [the Starr report, referred to Congress] is so loaded with irrelevant and unnecessary graphic and salacious allegations that only one conclusion is possible: its principal purpose is to damage the president.

The president has acknowledged and apologised for an inappropriate sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky, so there is no need to describe that relationship in ugly detail. Any fair reader of the Referral will easily discern that many of the lurid allegations have no justification at all.

They are simply part of a hit-and-run smear campaign. Because presidential impeachment invalidates the will of the American people, it was designed to be justified for the gravest wrongs — "serious assaults on the integrity of the processes of government".

The 11 supposed "grounds for impeachment" fall far short of that high standard. The document is [and] overreaching and extravagant effort to find a case where there is none.

Allegation I: Perjury in January 17, 1998. Paula Jones deposition. The Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC) begins with the allegation that President Clinton lied under oath as a defendant in Jones v Clinton regarding his sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

In the chambers of the House Judiciary committee, the definitions of such terms as "sexual affair", "sexual relations", and "sexual relationship" would be seen as vital to a determination whether some violation of law had occurred.

It is the president's reasonable interpretation that oral sex was outside the special relationship with Ms Lewinsky.

1) When he testified he believed oral sex was not covered by any of the terms and definitions for sexual activity used in the Jones deposition; 2) when he contradicted grand jury testimony on the question of whether he touched [Ms Lewinsky's] breasts or genitalia; 3) when he testified to a purportedly false date on which his relationship with Ms Lewinsky commenced.

None of these "allegations" makes out a case of perjury, and none can possibly constitute grounds for impeachment.

1) The terms "sexual affair" and "sexual relationship" are inherently ambiguous and, when used without definition, cannot amount to perjury. Many commentators and

The OIC assert the president "stated he did not recall whether [Vernon] Jordan (left) had talked to Lewinsky about her involvement in the Jones case". This account is false. The president was not asked that question, and did not give that answer.

journalists have stated that they believe that the definition of sexual relations in the Jones deposition did not include oral sex.

2) The critical issue is not whether the testimony of the president and Ms Lewinsky differ but whether there is any evidence that the president knowingly and intentionally gave false testimony.

3) Whereas the Referral indicates that the president lied about the relationship beginning early in 1996, Ms Lewinsky has apparently testified that it began November 15, 1995.

This claim is frivolous — president's statement regarding the timing of the relationship was immaterial to the grand jury's investigation.

Allegation II: Perjury in August 17, 1998, grand jury testimony. The OIC contends that President Clinton committed perjury three times in lying under oath to the grand jury of the subject of his sexual

relationship with Ms Lewinsky. The Referral claims that in the following exchange in the Jones case he committed perjury:

Q. Have you ever talked to Ms Lewinsky about the possibility that she might be asked to testify in this lawsuit?

A. I'm not sure and let me tell you why I'm not sure. I want to be as accurate as I can here. Seems to me the last time she was there to see Betty [Currie, the president's secretary], before Christmas we were joking about how you all, with the help of the Rutherford Institute, were going to call every woman I'd ever talked to and ask them that, and so I said you would qualify. I don't think we ever had more of a conversation than that about it.

Q. What did Ms Lewinsky say in response?

A. "Nothing, that I remember. Whatever she said, I don't remember. Probably just some predictable thing."

This answer was literally accurate. The president described a conversation that he had with many women about the possibility that they might be subpoenaed.

He made clear that the conversation with Ms Lewinsky preceded the appearance of her name on the witness list. The president also stated he was not certain as to his recollection. The fact that Ms Lewinsky recalls additional conversations does not establish that the president's answer was inaccurate.

Allegation V: Concealing gifts and an intimate note. The OIC contends that President Clinton obstructed justice by concealing gifts he had given to Ms Lewinsky. This claim is wholly unfounded.

On her December 28, 1998, visit, the president gave Ms Lewinsky several holiday and going-away gifts. She apparently testified that she raised a question about the Jones subpoena and suggested "putting the gifts away outside of my house or somewhere or giving them to someone, maybe Betty".

The president, according to Ms Lewinsky's reported testimony, responded with something like, "I don't know" or "Hmmm". Even if one accepts Ms Lewinsky's testimony, "I don't know... Hmmm" do not constitute obstruction of justice.

The president was unconcerned because he frequently exchanges gifts with friends.

The OIC also argues that the president obstructed justice in the Jones case by destroying an intimate note that Ms Lewinsky included in a book she left for him on January 4, 1998. The president testified that he recalled receiving a book but did not recall an accompanying note.

Allegation VI: Concealment of the relationship. The OIC contends that President Clinton and Ms Lewinsky had an understanding that they would lie under oath in the Jones case about their relationship and that President Clinton endeavored to obstruct justice by suggesting that Ms Lewinsky file an affidavit so she would not contradict his testimony.

Allegation IV: Discussions with Ms Lewinsky about potential testimony.

First, the Referral alleges that the president and Ms Lewinsky concealed the nature of their relationship. This is hardly a remarkable proposition. The use of "cover stories" to conceal such a relationship is not unusual and not obstruction of justice.

The Referral gives only one specific statement that Ms Lewinsky claims the president made to her regarding her testimony. She said he told her: "You know, you can always say you were coming to see Betty or that you were bringing me letters." The

president testified that he did not recall saying anything like that. Even the OIC concedes the president never instructed Ms Lewinsky to lie.

The Referral alleges that the president suggested to Ms Lewinsky that she could sign an affidavit in the Jones case, but fails to establish how this might constitute obstruction of justice.

Allegation VII: Job search for Ms Lewinsky. The Referral contends that certain actions taken on behalf of Ms Lewinsky in her job efforts amounted to ob-

struction of justice. The Referral acknowledges that the case is wholly circumstantial [and] presents precious little in the way of presidential involvement and nothing that supports an inference to obstruct justice.

Indeed, the Referral acknowledges it was Ms Lewinsky who broached the subject of receiving the president's help.

Allegation VIII: Conversations with Vernon Jordan. The OIC asserts that the president was "asked during his civil deposition whether he had talked to Mr Jordan about Ms Lewinsky's involvement in the Jones case" and he "stated that he did not recall".

This account of the question and answer is simply false. The president was not asked that question, and he did not give that answer.

Allegation IX: Witness tampering. The OIC charges that President Clinton obstructed justice and improperly influenced a witness when he spoke with Ms Currie [his secretary] the day after his deposition in the Jones case.

The OIC's claims are wrong. Ms Currie was not a witness in any proceeding at the time [and] there was no reason to suspect she would play any role in that case.

Allegation X: Refusal to testify. Having announced on live television that he was not having sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky, it is simply absurd to believe that the president was somehow attempting to corruptly influence the testimony of aides when he told them virtually the same thing.

The mere repetition of a public denial to these aides could not have affected the grand jury process.

Their legal duty was to answer the prosecutor's questions and the president's comments in no conceivable way affected that duty.

The OIC suggests that the president's delay in acknowledging a relationship with Ms Lewinsky somehow constituted an obstruction of justice. This claim is unfounded: The president had no legal obligation to appear before the grand jury and every reason not to, given the OIC's tactics, illegal leaking, and manifest intent to damage him.

Allegation XI: Abuse of power. The OIC begins with the charge that the president's denial that he had an improper relationship with Ms Lewinsky was itself an abuse of power because it served to deceive the American people.

Implicit in this charge is the notion that any official, in any branch of the government, who makes a public statement about his own conduct that is not true, may be removed from office.

It would follow that no official could mount a defense to impeachment, or to ethics charges, or to a criminal investigation while remaining in office — for anything other than an immediate admission of guilt will necessarily be misleading.

Could the OIC truly be taking the position that any government official who is the subject of a criminal investigation must immediately come forward and testify at prosecution's whim or risk impeachment?

Conclusion. The president has admitted he had an improper relationship with Ms Lewinsky. The Referral mentions White-water, the failed land deal which originated its investigation, twice. The issue of sex is mentioned more than 500 times.

The Office of Independent Counsel is asking the House of Representatives to undertake its most solemn and consequential process short of declaring war: to remove a duly, freely and fairly elected president of the United States because he had an improper, illicit relationship outside of his marriage.

Having such a relationship is wrong.

Trying to keep such a relationship private, while understandable, is wrong.

But such acts do not even approach the constitutional test of impeachment — "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors".

The president did not commit perjury. He did not obstruct justice. He did not tamper with witnesses.

And he did not abuse the power of the office of the presidency.

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Congress agenda

Monday
John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, addresses congress — expected to warn that Government will not be deflected from interest rate and economic policies. Debates on health and safety, fairness at work, white paper and union rights, "New Unionism", recruitment and organisation, civil liberties.

Tuesday
David Blunkett, Education and Employment Secretary, Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England, and George Bain, chairman of the Low Pay Commission, address congress. Debates on pensions, media, national minimum wage, education, equality.
Tony Blair attends TUC general council dinner.

Wednesday
Address by John Monks, TUC general secretary, whose pragmatic approach to the Private Finance Initiative may be overturned. Debates on transport, environment, single currency, NHS and New Deal.

Thursday
Peter Mandelson, Trade and Industry Secretary, addresses delegates. International debates.



TUC general secretary John Monks (TUC) and Udsaw chief Bill Connor at Tesco in Blackpool. PHOTOGRAPHY: DON MURPHY

Woodhead pay fuels 'fat cat' row

Teachers' resentment mounts as leaders gather at TUC conference

Rebecca Smithers and John Carvel

THE Government was yesterday embroiled in a fresh row over "fat cat" pay rises after it emerged that Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, is to be reappointed for a further five-year term on a significantly higher salary.

Although the Education and Employment Secretary, David Blunkett, insisted that the decision on Mr Woodhead's future had yet been made, government sources indicated that a review of Ofsted, the schools' inspectorate, was virtually complete and

that it included the former teacher remaining in the top job.

The Department of Education dismissed reports that he was to get a 40 per cent pay rise, taking his salary £120,000, as speculation. Mr Woodhead, originally appointed by the Tories to lead a tough new inspection regime for England's schools, earns a basic annual salary of £86,000. His five-year term does not end until next autumn.

Yesterday, Mr Blunkett told the Guardian: "We have not finalised any of the arrangements surrounding the future of Ofsted and we will make a decision in our own time."

A government source said that a Sunday newspaper report claiming that Mr Woodhead's five-year pay package, including bonuses, could amount to £1 million was "bunkum". But it was not unreasonable to expect Mr Woodhead to be rewarded for his work so far with a rise that was "a healthy differential" above inflation.

The news comes as ministers try to persuade public sector workers — including teachers — that they must exercise restraint in their pay demands. The main teacher unions are about to put forward this year's submissions to the Pay Review Board, but are unlikely to be offered much more than 3 per cent.

Yesterday, teaching unions reacted angrily. Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and

Lecturers, said: "I would have been amazed if Chris Woodhead's contract had not been renewed." But he thought a two-year extension of contract would have been adequate, and added: "On the question of pay, I think teachers will regard it as a fat cat salary."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The decision to reappoint the chief inspector will cause a lot of people in the profession to raise their eyebrows because of his reputation. But the timing is so bad, it is indescribable. We cannot get head teachers for love nor money. The Government is saying teachers' salaries must be held down to the rate of inflation. It is sending a message to the teaching profession which will cause them a great deal of anger."

Meanwhile, leaders of the National Union of Teachers, the largest teaching union, is pushing for a fundamental reform of salaries that would go a long way towards meeting the Government's plans for modernising the profession.

Mr Blunkett is preparing a green paper for publication in November to create incentives for able teachers to remain in the classroom by offering a performance-related pay rise.

Doug McAvoy, NUT general secretary, has won a narrow majority on his executive for a counter-proposal that would give the extra pay to teachers who continue training to boost their professional skills. His proposals will go to a special conference of the union later this month.

Leader comment, page 9

Hague goes for jugular with jab at 'sad' Heath

Michael White
Political Editor

WILLIAM Hague yesterday took the Conservatives' 20-year civil war over Europe, to a new generation when, at a Young Tories conference, he slapped down Sir Edward Heath, for daring to question his strategy for leading the party.

After Sir Edward, now aged 82, said that the Conservatives would not attract him if he were a young man today, Mr Hague told activists in Nottingham, and BBC's Breakfast with Frost, that the man whose four-year premiership from 1970 to 1974 made him a household name, was a "sad" person over-reliant on the old-fashioned leadership.

Sir Edward's offence was to give an interview to the Sunday Times, which is serialising his long-awaited memoirs, and which evidently did not find them explosive enough to generate "news". Yesterday's extract was predictably severe on Margaret Thatcher's policies. But his libelous attack of monetarism being "perhaps the most deceptively simplistic of all economic theories", have been heard before.

Instead, the newspaper yesterday highlighted an interview with him, before he left at the weekend for China. He criticises Tony Blair — "obviously far more to the right than I am" — but also admits he wouldn't be a Young Tory

today. "I know a lot of people it doesn't attract," he said.

With Mr Hague facing a tricky party conference in three weeks' time — barely more popular in the polls than he was a year ago — this was unhelpful. But Sir Edward's distaste for the Hague right-leaning leadership had evidently been reignited by the decision to stage a snap ballot on the leader's 10-year moratorium on Britain joining the single currency.

Except for the gallant Sir Alec Douglas-Home who gave up the Tory leadership to Mr Heath in 1965, ex-Tory leaders have sniped at their successors and each other with the recent exception of John Major — who is determined not to go down that road and even backed the Hague ballot against the Clarke-Heseltine axis, though he probably doubts its wisdom.

Yesterday, Mr Hague, who was 13 when Sir Edward lost power, seized the chance to "assert" himself. He said that Mr Major and Lady Thatcher had supported the ballot, after which it would "be clear who speaks for the party and who does not". He said: "I'm afraid neither of our I have benefited from that [support] from Ted. I don't think he'll ever forgive us for leading the party after him. It's sad but true."

The Heath-Thatcher feud, dating almost from when she overthrew him in 1975, was full of misunderstandings and bitterness, the Heath memoirs make clear.

He hated the way she at-

tacked his policies as "U-turns", after being in his cabinet, and how she never consulted him when she was prime minister, let alone invited him to state occasions. Mr Hague looks set to repeat her errors.

Sir Edward, in turn, criticised the Hague reforms for which he blamed the management consultancy culture of Mr Heseltine, for which Mr Hague and his organisational guru, Archie Norman MP, ("Mr Whatshisname", said Sir Edward) once worked.

"The Tories isn't the same as a business organisation with people at the top telling everyone what to do," he explained to the Sunday Times.

Many Tory MPs would agree, though Hague loyalists say they have more than 330,000 members who are now voting on the euro-bailout.

"Ted Heath has never forgiven me for being party leader. I have a lot of respect for him, but I've got to move on to future generations," said Mr Hague, who told his Conservative Future audience — 160 members of what would have been called the Young Conservatives before Mr Hague's reforms — that he was threatening no one.

That point was disputed by the Sir Leon Brittan, the EU Commission vice-president and ex-Thatcher cabinet member, who told Radio 4 that Mr Hague's anti-euro policy was "indefensible". It was inconceivable that the pro-Europeans would just "shut up" after they lost the ballot — as they would.

School guilty of race bias

Helen Carter

STAFF at a Catholic primary school in north London racially discriminated against two employees who were eventually unfairly dismissed from their jobs, an industrial tribunal rules today.

Miss Webster and Miss Webster were sacked from Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary school, in Stonebridge, north-west London, in 1996.

Miss Webster claimed at an industrial tribunal in north London that a critical Ofsted report was used as an excuse to sack them.

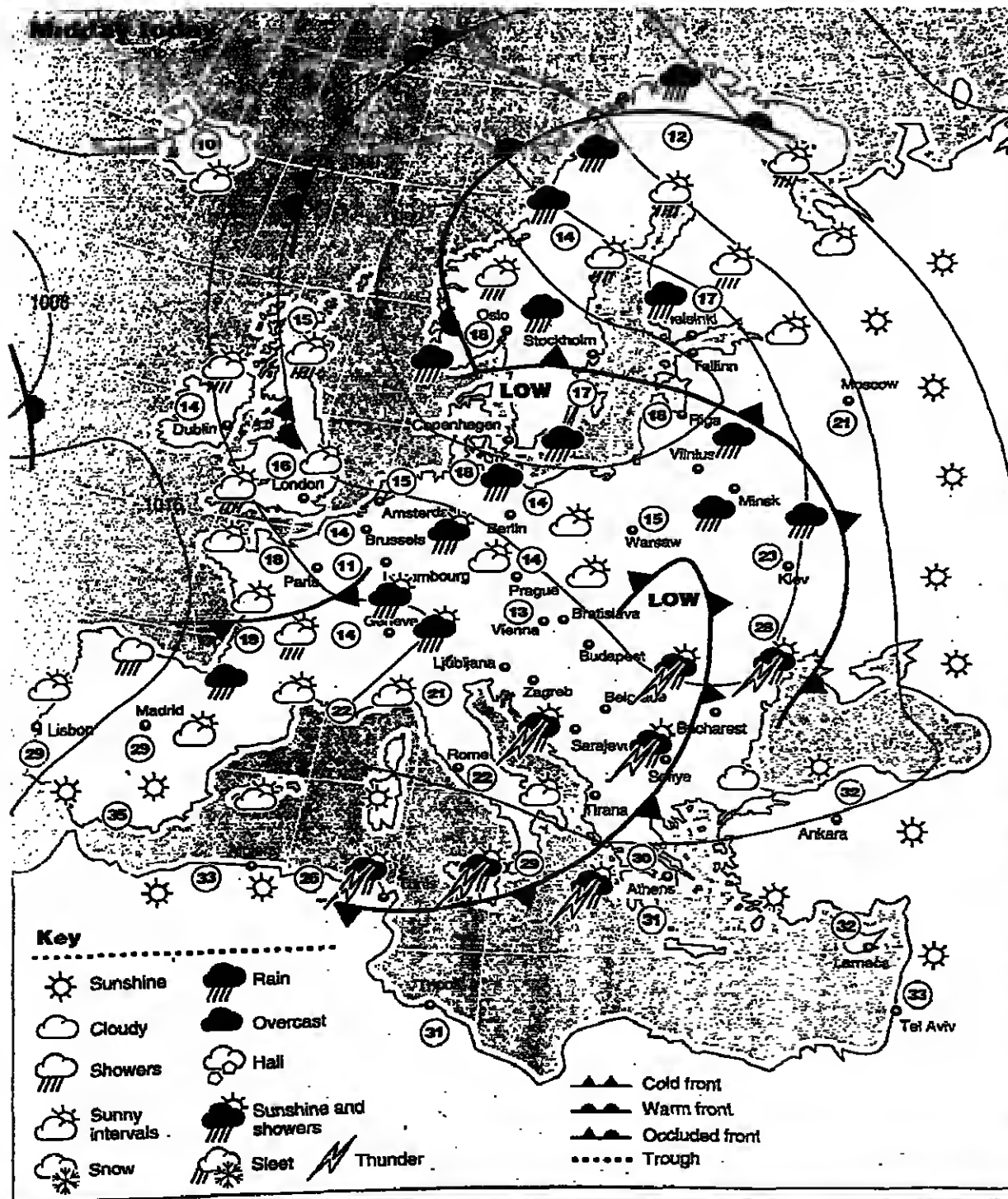
The tribunal found that the school governors, as employers, discriminated against the women because of their race and that they were unfairly dismissed.

The hearing was told that Miss Webster and Miss Webster, the only two non-white professional staff at the school, were denied contracts, which were given to white

members of staff, and had been nicknamed "sidekicks" by a teacher.

The tribunal concluded: "This is a tale of poor relationships in a school under scrutiny. The poor relationships had been allowed to fester due to poor management and the added stress occasioned by an unsatisfactory Ofsted report. The school governors' decision was taken to raise the standard of education in the nursery."

The weather in Europe



European outlook

Scandinavia
Heavy rain will affect Denmark, southern Norway and southern Sweden. Finland and more northern regions will be dry. Norwegian Sea coasts should also stay dry. Max temps up to 18C in Stockholm, 16C in Oslo, 14C in Helsinki.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland
Soggy and the Netherlands will start off wet, but it will become drier from the west later, as sunshine appears. Germany, Switzerland and Austria will be wet for much of the day, although the east may start sunny. Very cold also, with max temps reaching only 10C in Munich, 8C in Amsterdam.

Spain and Portugal
Northern regions will have more rain and showers. Further south across the Iberian Peninsula, the sun will shine and it will stay dry. The reports and the Mediterranean coasts will stay hot, hot and sunny. Max temps will range from 24C in Santander to 28C in Seville.

Italy
Heavy showers and thunderstorms will affect southern regions and Sicily, but these will clear from the north later to leave sunnier and patchy cloud. Max temps 20-25C.

Thunderstorms
Thunderstorms will affect the Pyrenees mountains and the Iberian Peninsula, but these will clear from the north later to leave sunnier and patchy cloud. Max temps 20-25C.

Around the world
Yesterday's headlines reports

Television and radio

BBC 1
7.00am News, 7.30am News, 8.00am News, 8.30am News, 9.00am News, 9.30am News, 10.00am News, 10.30am News, 11.00am News, 11.30am News, 12.00pm News, 12.30pm News, 1.00pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.00pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.00pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.00pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.00pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.00pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.00pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.00pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.00pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00am News, 12.30am News, 1.00am News, 1.30am News, 2.00am News, 2.30am News, 3.00am News, 3.30am News, 4.00am News, 4.30am News, 5.00am News, 5.30am News, 6.00am News, 6.30am News, 7.00am News, 7.30am News, 8.00am News, 8.30am News, 9.00am News, 9.30am News, 10.00am News, 10.30am News, 11.00am News, 11.30am News, 12.00am News, 12.30am News, 1.00am News, 1.30am News, 2.00am News, 2.30am News, 3.00am News, 3.30am News, 4.00am News, 4.30am News, 5.00am News, 5.30am News, 6.00am News, 6.30am News, 7.00am News, 7.30am News, 8.00am News, 8.30am 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Bavarians put spoke in Schröder wheel

Ian Traynor in Bonn

GERHARD Schröder's hope of becoming Germany's first Social Democratic chancellor in 16 years suffered a setback last night when his party failed to improve its position in a key election in Bavaria, the country's geographically biggest state, only two weeks before the general election.

Projections last night boosted Chancellor Helmut Kohl's hope of winning a fifth term on September 27, giving his Bavarian ally and coalition partner the Christian Social Union (CSU) a comfortable victory in the southern state, maintaining its absolute majority with almost 53 per cent of the vote.

The Social Democrats were estimated to have fallen below 30 per cent, slightly down on four years ago, despite the much-touted "Schröder effect", which they had hoped would help their party, the SPD, gain up to 5 per cent in the deeply Roman Catholic and conservative state.

The Bavarian premier and CSU number two, Edmund Stoiber, who campaigned for a mandate to rule unchallenged, as the CSU has done in Bavaria since 1982, claimed a triumph at the ballot box, since the projected 52.9 per cent was up to four points more than most opinion polls had forecast, and level with the CSU result in 1994.

"This is a clear slap in the face for the SPD," Mr Stoiber said last night, pointing out that Mr Schröder had campaigned hard in Bavaria, putting in many more appearances than Mr Kohl.

"It is a clear defeat for the SPD's candidate for chancellor, who was the SPD's main mascot here."

Although Mr Kohl and Mr Stoiber are uneasy allies, the Bavarian leader said that last night's outcome represented "an enormous boost" towards a conservative victory in a fortnight's time. Mr Kohl phoned Mr Stoiber promptly to congratulate him.

"This is a great, magnificent vote of confidence," Mr Stoiber said.

"I'm pleased that the CSU has managed to keep the extreme left and extreme right

out of the parliament." The neo-Nazi fringe party, the Republicans, was projected to win 4 per cent of the vote, more than expected but still less than the 5 per cent needed to enter the state parliament in Munich.

Mr Kohl, whose Christian Democratic Union has been consistently behind the Social Democrats in the opinion polls for six months, was immensely cheered by the result. Although there was no doubt that the CSU would win, Mr Schröder had hoped to bring its majority below the 50 per cent mark, and give the SPD a few more points.

Otto Schily, Mr Schröder's shadow interior minister, conceded that Mr Stoiber had scored "a very strong result" but he disputed the national significance of the vote.

It was paradoxical that the

The drop in the Social Democrat and Green votes left the Kohl camp crowing

biggest filip for Mr Kohl came from Mr Stoiber, the hugely popular Bavarian leader who has been one of his harshest critics in the past two years.

Although the CSU is in coalition with Mr Kohl in Bonn, Mr Stoiber failed to mention him at all in his campaign, and kept the chancellor's electioneering in Bavaria to a minimum. Mr Stoiber is one of the strongest critics in Germany of the single European currency, a central political aim of Mr Kohl.

While Mr Kohl's small coalition partner, the Free Democrats, took a wretched 1.7 per cent and came nowhere near entering the state parliament, Mr Schröder's potential partner at the national level, the leftwing Greens, also fared poorly, dropping to 5.5 per cent from 6.1 last time.

The drop in the SPD and Green votes left the Kohl camp crowing that a red-green coalition after the general election had been dealt a crushing blow.

Albania PM flees as mob storms office

Benet Kolecka in Tirana

THE Albanian prime minister fled in a hail of gunfire yesterday as supporters of the opposition Democratic Party set fire to his offices in protest at the assassination of their party's leader.

Crying "revenge", a crowd of about 2,000 people first set fire to cars outside the interior ministry, whose walls were hit by bullets, before moving on to the nearby office of the Socialist prime minister, Fatos Nano.

Ten cars burned outside the premier's office in a reminder of scenes from March last year when protests against the collapse of pyramid finance schemes turned violent and the country was on the brink of anarchy.

Protesters threw stones at the prime minister's three-storey building before charging in to avenge the death of the Democrats' leader, Azem Hajdari, who was shot along with a bodyguard outside his party office on Saturday night.

The Democrats blamed Mr Nano for the killing of Hajdari, a hero of Albania's anti-communist revolution.

Mr Nano and his cabinet fled in government cars from an opposite exit as protesters brandishing iron bars and firing pistols and Kalashnikov rifles entered the building. After the ground floor was set alight the crowd dispersed into the capital's streets.



A car outside Fatos Nano's office is set on fire yesterday as crowds protest at the assassination of an opposition leader

PHOTOGRAPH: ARBEN CULI

A government statement said the rioters had tried to reach a room where the government was in session and that the offices of the prime minister and his deputies were attacked with stones and firearms.

The government forcefully urges the Democratic Party and its leadership to keep in check its armed people, to avoid confrontation with the police and wait for the results of investigation into the criminals who took the life of lawmaker Azem Hajdari," the statement said.

The government posted a reward of up to 250,000 for information leading to the arrest of the killers.

One protester, Skender Kallia, aged 58, died, and unconfirmed reports said the commander of the national guard and a girl were wounded.

An unconfirmed report said trouble had also broken out in Kavaje, where crowds were said to have blocked traffic.

Later in the day, the streets in Tirana were mostly deserted but occasional gunshots were heard.

About 2,000 Democrat supporters silently paid their respects to Hajdari and his bodyguard, whose coffins were on display at Tirana's main Skanderbeg Square.

Daan Everis, Tirana head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, called Hajdari's killing "atrocious" and appealed for calm. He said representatives of the world community in Tirana would meet today to discuss the situation.

"I am sure the message once again will be: Albania, be peaceful and democratic, do not answer calls for violence," Mr Everis said.

The former president, Sali Berisha, also of the Democratic Party, blamed the assassination on Mr Nano, whose Socialists ousted the Democrats in elections last year.

"The Democratic Party of Albania has all proof that this is a direct criminal act of the government," Mr Berisha said. "Our ultimate demand is for the government to resign within 24 hours."

Reuters

Britain plans warm welcome for heir to Saudi throne

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

BITRAIN is rolling out the red carpet today for Crown Prince Abdullah, the heir to the Saudi Arabian throne, as he starts a grand tour to meet the world leaders who will fetter him when he succeeds the ailing King Fahd.

In what one senior Foreign Office diplomat called "an unusual mark of favour", the prince is

lunching with the Queen at Balmoral today and with Tony Blair at Downing Street tomorrow. He will also meet Prince Charles, who is keen to promote understanding of Islam.

Prince Abdullah is making his first visit to the West in 10 years, and the Foreign Office has pulled off a coup by ensuring he comes to Britain before France or the United States.

Unusually attentive hospitality is being arranged for the four-day visit,

which comes at a time when Britain's most important Arab ally and export market — and the world's largest oil producer — is beset by low oil prices and the threat of an economic slump.

With Saudi government revenue falling by 25 per cent there are some tough decisions facing the 74-year-old prince.

Among the issues at stake for Britain is the \$20 billion Al-Yamamah defence deal, which has been

quietly restructured recently to take account of the kingdom's worsening problems.

Anglo-Saudi relations have improved since serious strains caused by the activities to London of the dissident Mohammed al-Mas'ari, whom the Tory government failed to expel.

May's release from a Saudi jail of nurses Deborah Parry and Lucille McLanchlan ended another difficult period.

Since King Fahd, his

older half-brother, was laid low by a stroke two years ago, Prince Abdullah, commander of the US-trained National Guard, has taken on more responsibility for the country's day-to-day running.

He is less pro-American than King Fahd, more attuned to Arab affairs, and gets on well with the country's religious establishment.

Despite its reservations about the recent US air attacks on alleged terrorist

targets in Afghanistan and Sudan, Saudi Arabia is seen as a pro-Western bulwark in a volatile region and a vital ally in the attempt to contain Iraq. Prince Abdullah has been closely involved in meeting fences with Iran under the moderate leadership of President Mohammad Khatami.

"Saudi Arabia is the key to the security of the Gulf," a British official said.

"There is no substitute for the leaders meeting eyeball to eyeball."

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Comment

The Clinton crisis

US opinion

The New York Times

WITH heavy hearts and churning emotions, Americans are taking this weekend to digest Kenneth Starr's allegations of misconduct and abuse of power by President Clinton. The official judgment of Clinton's fitness to serve will be rendered by the Congress, which is as it should be. Wrangling over the role and rights of the independent counsel can now give way to procedures and powers established indisputably by the Constitution, and that is a healthy development.

But it places a heavy burden on the House of Representatives, which will first consider the case and whether to hold impeachment hearings. Without an exact precedent from Watergate of receiving such detailed accusations from a special prosecutor, the House must invent new procedures as it goes along. So far, Speaker Newt Gingrich and Henry Hyde, the Judiciary Committee chairman, have been true to their promise of a bipartisan approach.

The House's primary obligation is to handle the case in a fair, nonpartisan way. That means that Clinton and his lawyers should be given every opportunity to see all the evidence, including evidence that has not yet been made public. When the Judiciary Committee meets today, it should reconsider its decision not to let Clinton's lawyers immediately review the 2,000 pages of backup material that accompanied the Starr report. The committee should also give Clinton access to the additional 17 boxes of what Starr calls "other evidence".

Because the White House is disputing the facts and interpretations contained in Starr's report, the House Judiciary Committee must transform itself into a kind of fact-finding body. The House needs to make sure that the defense of Clinton on the panel, in cooperation with the White House counsel, are able to obtain any information or testimony that challenges Starr's findings or legal analysis.

There can be no room for

The impeachment decision ought to be reached before the October recess. The country cannot afford to drift

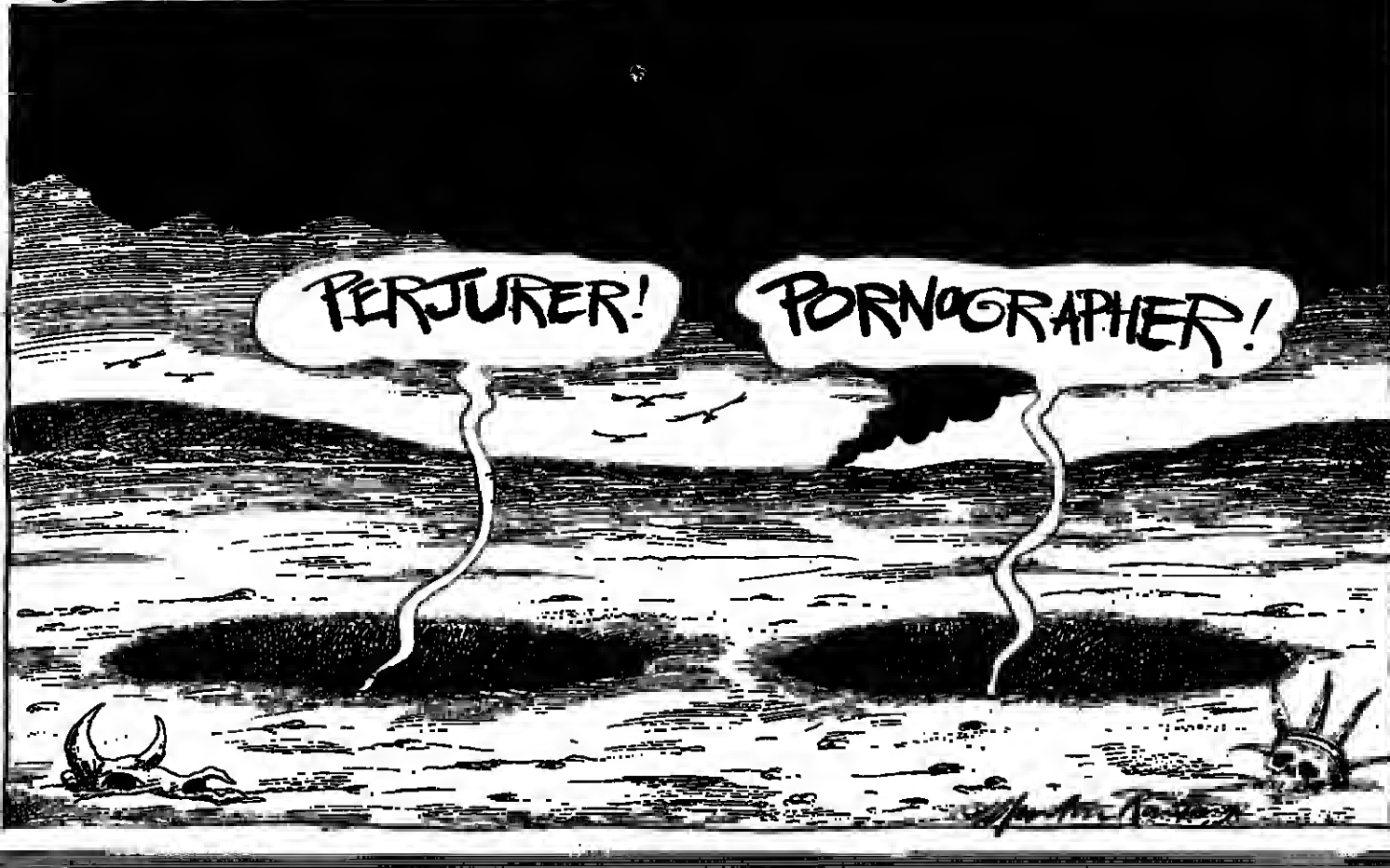
unilateral subpoena power by the Republicans, with no ability of the minority to exercise the same rights. The Judiciary Committee should ask Starr if there is any additional material related to the case that he did not consider material, but which the defense may find exculpatory or otherwise crucial in its effort to challenge the credibility of witnesses.

Polis show that Americans want this process to be concluded swiftly, and there can be no doubt that the longer the uncertainty surrounding Clinton lasts, the weaker he will be in exercising the duties of his office. Even though elections are coming in November, the House must move promptly to determine whether the case requires impeachment proceedings. That decision ought to be reached before the October recess. If the decision is affirmative, initial hearings should commence after the election, as the country cannot afford to drift through a crisis of leadership until a new Congress is seated.

During Watergate, when the House examined the evidence against Richard Nixon, Democrats and Republicans set aside their political interests and weighed the facts with care. If the Clinton case comes to that, the House can achieve such a standard again. It has no more solemn obligation.

It must act in the spirit of the Constitution to insure that history will see its actions as fair and considered and standing the test of time.

Fighting from the Moral High Ground



Bill may survive. Americans know there are different degrees of lies

Charles Wheeler



AS THE Clinton case goes to the Congress it's the political paradox, that's proving to be fascinating. Most Democrats, stuck with a mortally wounded leader on the eve of an election, must surely be wishing he would go quietly, instead of prolonging the agony by fighting for two more pointless years in office.

The Republicans, having successfully frustrated his agenda since 1992, and presumably tempted to use their majority to bring about his impeachment, must be looking ahead at the consequences: Vice-President Gore — Mr. Clean, perhaps accompanied by an attractive future running-mate such as General Powell — slumped into the White House with two years to establish himself before having to face the electorate. All this, of course, will long ago have occurred to Bill Clinton, who knew before anyone else that impeachment proceedings were a distinct possibility.

When you throw public opinion into the equation the crystal ball becomes even cloudier. Congress is widely expected to follow the opinion polls and to respond to the supposed will of the people. That seems too simple. More likely, as with Nixon and Watergate, the two will interact as they express themselves, each influencing the other.

It's also worth remembering that Nixon's ratings didn't collapse until close to the end. And it's not inconceivable that the zealous Mr. Starr has more shots in his locker, holding them in reserve until the right tactical

moment arrives. Meanwhile, in spite of the stunning impact of Starr's unexpectedly aggressive report, it is Clinton who seems to have scored on points in the last 48 hours. His public act of contrition and repentance was just what the spin doctors ordered and a marvelous piece of political theatre. It will have played well not only in Peoria, but among millions of Americans who were offended by his recent qualified apology and have been demanding something more abrupt.

The White House attack on Starr's report as being needlessly salacious and vindictive — a pretty specious defence to my mind — will have helped Clinton in the short term, and short term gains are better than none.

Curiously, the full text of the report, in contrast to the headlines and news stories, contains a lot of detail in the devil's favour. American women will have noticed that Clinton did not reward Monica Lewinsky for her favours. Surprisingly, it is Clinton rather than Monica who turns out to be the sex slave in the case. By her own testimony she set out to have an affair with him, pestered him repeatedly for more, objected to the physical limitations he imposed on their couplings, boasted to a dozen friends about her conquest at the summit, complained when he concurred in her removal from the White House, and threw a tantrum when he called the whole thing off.

Does anybody wonder why she never sent that dress to the cleaners? As my grandmother might have said, Miss Lewinsky was a nasty little minx who set her cap at him.

In truth they were a well-matched pair, with a distinct aura of the trailer park about them. John Kennedy, though apparently a sinner, had taste, as well as the sense not to be caught or lay himself open to what a layman might call entrapment. Marilyn Monroe, apart from her other attributes, had discretion.

More pertinent at this point in the Clinton saga is a comparison with Richard Nixon, whose criminality is beyond challenge. Nixon became a crook by using all the resources of his office, including members of his Cabinet and government agencies, to frustrate the special prosecutor. Watergate was about a US

As grandmother might have said, Lewinsky was a nasty minx who set her cap at him

president's lack of accountability. It was the need to subject his successors to the rule of law that led the Congress, after Nixon, to institute the office of Independent Counsel and to make sure his powers were effective, though subject to challenge in the courts.

If it had not been for the limited powers of a special prosecutor, Nixon would never have been brought to justice.

And yet there is surely something breathtakingly dubious about the progression from an apparently futile investigation of corruption on

the part of a state governor to an accusation that a president, who has led in response to questions that should never have been asked in the first place, has committed a high crime and misdemeanor, worthy of dismissal from office.

Even the moral majority has yet to propose the criminalisation of adultery, except, oddly enough, in the armed services.

As for the public at large, it is quite obviously not in favour of what has been called the indiscriminate criminalisation of lying. As the argument runs, lies vary in degree and in kind, and have long been treated as such in American law. Traditionally it has distinguished between lies that harm others and lies arising from an accused person's natural impulse to deny his guilt.

Mr Starr has ignored the distinction. A Speaker, if he were so minded, could use it with great effect, thereafter being seen as humane and forgiving, and re-elected in tune with public sentiment and politically astute, all at once. Even, perhaps, potentially presidential.

As for the hapless Bill Clinton, as president he is already one of yesterday's men. But the worst case scenario seems unlikely to be played out, if only because America's voters knew of his imperfections, of his tendency to twist facts and grope girls, before they elected and re-elected him. Somehow, down but not out, the Slick Willy looks likely to survive.

Charles Wheeler has been reviewing America as a correspondent since the mid-1960s

The top job from hell

Peter Preston



WHEN we don't have enough good teachers, we create a legion of super-teachers. Too few nurses? Here come the super-sisters. These are recognised problems of recruitment where answers have to be found. But does anybody today talk of the need to create some super presidents of the United States? And if not, why not? This is the loudest recruitment of the lot.

Bill Clinton, sorrowful pundits intone, is "the most extravagantly gifted politician of his generation". Really? It doesn't say much for the rest of the class of the nineties. He is swift and affable and sharp and eloquent, to be sure; but he pounded the campaign trail six years ago already burdened with questions of character, Jennifer Flowers — and a chorus of other accusers — came before, not after, his election.

When he and Hillary sat on that sofa in New Hampshire long ago and he talked contritely about "the pain I have brought to my marriage", he signalled troubles past and troubles to come in neon lights. Yet Americans still elected him. They did so because he was the best leader they saw through the months of the primaries as the other might-bes turned into has-beens. If you remember Paul Tsongas, you will also remember that he was the last alternative left at the end. But very few do remember Tsongas — just as even fewer remember Michael Dukakis four years before.

In 1990 George Bush had broken the promise everyone remembered, because it hit them in their pockets. "No new taxes, read my lips." He looked what he also was: a perennial appointee and chair-filler who drifted haplessly when events got too big for him because his whole life had consisted of shuffling papers to a higher authority. He quailed before the monster called Ross Perot in a flap of hands.

And two years ago, of course, the choice was even ruder. Newt Gingrich in arrogance, crassness and marital infidelity — had self-destructed. The party of governance: the party which controlled the Senate and the House, left poor, sick, old Bob Dole sacrifice himself in a cause no one believed in. The Clinton of Whitewater and Paula Jones and Ken Starr in full flood cruised home. He was still the best.

Such fragments of context make two relevant cases. One (smaller, more immediate) is that it would be idiotic if Clinton didn't survive. So he has brought "a little more pain to his marriage": so what? That was always a given in the bargain the voters struck when they elected him. They should be grateful that, on the "high crimes and misdemeanours" of bribery and corruption, Starr came up empty-handed.

But the longer-term case is far more serious. Dole, Dukakis, Bush? The "golden age" that most Americans now fondly recall is the era of Ronald Reagan. Dream on. It isn't good enough — and for good reason. The system actively deters talent, experience and wisdom. It repels the sentient. It attracts only the second-rate and the flawed and the deluded.

Consider the underlying situation even today. Whether Clinton goes or stays, there is already a clutch of Republicans out there chewing rubber chickens on the circuit of availability. Who would you bet on first? Probably George Bush Junior, the Governor of Texas turned from a wild and reprobate youth into a middle-aged pillar of sanctity. He preaches moral purity; he signs his execution warrants; he operates outside the Washington beltway.

But Texas politics make Arkansas look nursery stuff. The experience — and the period of reformation — seem

ominously thin. Is Junior the saviour America needs, the brightest and the best?

No: like Carter and Reagan and Clinton before him, like every President of the last 35 years who did not have the springboard of the vice-presidency to propel him into the Oval Office, Bush has the platform and the apparatus which makes campaigning possible.

He has a base to operate from which allows him to fly hither and yon, to eat the chickens and pump the hands. He is stuck with neither the incubus of Washington nor its demands of committees and votes. He is available because his job allows him to be available.

The grind of the system (however marginally truncated in its latest form) favours only a certain sort of candidate and excludes all those who can't or don't want to spend their lives running — and running — for office. Without money there is no visibility. Without visibility commanders-in-chief have to crawl their way to the top. Beyond the system, though, lurks a larger and fresher deterrent. The job itself is becoming impossible (unless, like Ronnie, you sleep your way through).

Is there power to it? You can blow up Sudanese medical factories, of course. But the Congress — by voter demand — is usually stacked against you on everything from Medicare to campaign funding reform. There is only the nuanced appearance of power.

Arrive now in office and, in a trice, your ancient foes from the boondocks will be whipping up a special prosecutor to trapse over everything you've done for the last 20 years and, failing there, to turn himself into a permanent office of investigation.



Warren Harding made love to his mistress in a White House coat closet

You can't use your White House staff to fend off such challenges. The State pays for Starr, but you have to borrow millions to fend him off. When you quit, you'll be a poor man. If you quit in shame you will be ruined.

The Secret Service guards who travel with you can be called to testify against you. So can your closest staff and the lawyers you must naturally turn to. You are watched every moment of every day. You have no privacy in the deepest sense.

And if you stray, if a girl down the corridor lifts her skirts in a flash of thigh, what then? Without a shadow of doubt, after Monica, such temptation will always feature somewhere in the high crime and misdemeanor pantheon. Extra-marital sex of any kind (for good or ill) is now a presidential story and a rope around the neck.

Forget President Clinton. Harding making love to his mistress in a White House coat closet whilst his Security Guard watched the door. Forget John F Kennedy asking his guards to a party. The loves of Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson and Thomas Jefferson (for heaven's sake) will soon be clamouring to get in on this ludicrous act.

World's only superpower seeks new chief executive. It doesn't sound much of job, does it?

Just so cheesy

Maureen Dowd

THE president must not lose his job. Not over this. Certainly, Bill Clinton should be deeply ashamed of himself. He has given a bad name to adultery and lying. He has made wickedness seem pathetic, and that's truly a sin.

Kenneth Starr, all these years and all these millions later, has not delivered impeachable offences. He has delivered a 445-page Harold Robbins novel.

If we are going to dump our president, it should be for something big and bold and black and original. Not for the most tired story ever told: middle-aged married man has affair with frisky and adoring young office girl. Man hints to girl he might be single again in three or four years. Man gets bored with girl and dumps her. Girl cries and threatens, and tells 11 people what a creep he is.

The dialogue in this boiler, compiled with simultaneous relish by Rever-

end Starr, is so trite and bodice-ripping that it makes Titanic look profound.

In fact, Monica identified with Rose, the zaffig young heroine of Titanic. Last January, the former intern wrote the president what she called an embarrassing, mushy note" inspired by the movie, asking her former boyfriend if they could have sex (the lying kind).

Despite the fact that it takes place in the most powerful spot on this planet, the romance does not sizzle. Bill Clinton fancies himself another Jack Kennedy and invoked his idol's name last week to defend himself. But Kennedy was cool. His women were glamorous. The Rat Pack was good copy. He may have been just as immoral, but his carousing at least had style.

Clinton's escapades are just cheesy and depressing. The sex scenes are flat, repetitive, juvenile and cloying, taking place in the windowless hallway out-

side the Oval Office study or in the president's bathroom.

The props are uninspiring. Monica always pretends she's carrying papers to get into the Oval Office, and she gives the president a frog figurine, a letter opener decorated with a frog and "Oy Vey! The Things They Say: A Guide To Jewish Wit". Their

Starr has delivered a Harold Robbins novel with juvenile, flat, sex scenes

meetings, often when the first lady is travelling, are more needy than erotic. Monica recalled: "I asked him why he doesn't ask me any questions about myself, and ... is this just about sex ... or do you have some interest in trying to get to know me as a person?" By way of riposte, she said, the president laughed, said he cherished

their time together and then "snapped his pen into the sort of exposed himself".

When she complained to the president that she had not had any hugs for months, he quipped: "Every day can be sunshine." Thankfully, Clinton grew tired of his little pizza girl. She sensed he was "putting up walls".

"This was another one of those occasions when I was babbling on about something," she said of their last rendezvous, "and he just kissed me, kind of to shut me up. I think."

He didn't call. He didn't write. She began to suspect she was being "strung along". Trapped in a stereotype, Monica became the raging, vengeful Glenn Close character in Fatal Attraction.

"PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS TO ME," she wrote in a draft of a note to the president. "I feel disposable, used and insignificant."

She demanded a big job at the United Nations or in the business world in New

York, as compensation for his ruining her life.

"I don't want to have to work for this position," she said. "I just want it to be given to me." She sent the president a "wish list" of jobs ("I am NOT someone's administrative/executive assistant") and enclosed an erotic postcard and her thoughts on adoration reform. Now if the president was taking Monica's advice on education reform, that might be an impeachable offence.

She sent him a note that read: "I am not a moron. I know that what is going on in the world takes precedence ... I need you right now not as president, but as a man. PLEASE be my friend." Getting nervous over bar fits, Clinton reminded her, "It's illegal to threaten the president."

This is the document on which the fate of the Republic has been hanging? These are not grounds for impeachment. These are grounds for divorce.

Maureen Dowd is a columnist for the New York Times

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Roy Hattersley



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'Since 1961, 134 orcas have been captured. Keiko is the first to get out alive'

Kim Wood, Letters

After Starr, the politics

Now it's up to Congress

KENNETH STARR'S narrative on the private life of William Jefferson Clinton does not improve on a more leisurely re-reading. \$40 million is a big advance by any standards, and four years is a long time to research and write such a story, even one of this length. The plot is a cliché: powerful middle-aged man has guilty fling with ambitious young woman. The sex is smutty, fumbling and incomplete. The ending is trite: middle-aged man calls it off, young woman is distressed. Both lie about the affair. Both are found out. Like many authors of soft pornography, Mr Starr protests that the work is not about sex — that the explicit love scenes are integral to a full understanding of his characters. But his report is not about sex in the sense that Emmanuelle or the cult Japanese art movie, *AI No Corrida*, are not about sex. It's about sex. By the time you've waded through the 440 pages and 2,000 footnotes you are wondering less about the central characters

than about the author. Bill and Monica's doomed relationship is unremarkable, sad and banal. Kenneth Starr's single-minded act of voyeurism might one day make a much more rewarding story.

But Mr Starr is, for the moment, history. He set out to investigate a swirl of serious allegations concerning real abuses of office. He couldn't make any of it stick. So, instead, he went for the sex. He found it, and he found lies about sex. A round of applause. But the time has come for him to leave the stage. That was legal, this is now political. Congressmen and women are returning to Washington after weekends spent digesting the report and discussing it with their constituents. It seems plain that the President has no intention of resigning. It is also plain that he is now a terribly damaged politician. He has 28 months still to serve, and yet he has been revealed as a weak, dishonest and in some ways pathetic figure. What is to be done?

The coming weeks will play on a number of levels. At the constitutional level, the House of Representatives will have to approve the rules of engagement for the Judiciary Committee preliminary inquest into the Starr report. They should do so with a view to acting quickly and fairly. Mr Clinton and his lawyers should be allowed an immediate opportunity to see all the addi-

tional evidence amassed by Mr Starr and his team. They have until the mid-October recess to decide whether to move for impeachment hearings. Then there is the business of government. By the end of September a long list of appropriation bills in order to keep government running will land on Mr Clinton's desk. Some of them contain Republican-sponsored provisions which in other circumstances — Mr Clinton might well veto. They include measures on abortion, housing and education. This will be an early test of his determination to remain actively in charge.

Then there are the mid-term elections. Will the President be seen by his own party as an electoral and finance-raising liability? Finally, there will be Democratic Party fears that "other shoes" might materialise. What evidence, however weak, might still emerge about Fliegate, or Travelgate? Will the Attorney General appoint an independent counsel to investigate claims of campaign finance abuse in 1992? Are there other of Bill's girls out there ready to sell their souls to the National Inquirer? All these questions will jostle with each other as the law-makers try to decide on the best course of action. The rest of us can only watch mutely and hope that a great and powerful nation can settle an unhappy, but essentially trivial, episode with sophistication

and speed. Mr Clinton has behaved weakly and dishonestly over sex. That is not creditable but, as Maureen Dowd — no admirer of the President — writes on the opposite page: "These are not grounds for impeachment. These are grounds for divorce." She is right. Let's hope Congress agrees.

Union revolution

But when will it deliver the beef?

THIS week's TUC congress is unrecognisable from yesterday. The class war has been replaced by a partnership with business and there has been a management revolution within unions. The TUC's uneasy relationship with Labour hasn't prevented gains like a minimum wage and union recognition if a majority vote for it. Sadly, despite revived popularity, membership is at a 50-year low (6.6 million compared with 13 million in 1980). Unions have lost members in smokestack industries without compensating in new growth areas — like telecoms and part-time services.

Only 20 per cent of private employees are unionised yet the TUC has failed to alleviate the (real) grievances of its public sector core. As John Monks reminded us yesterday, public sector pay is increasing at less

than half the pace of the private sector. The TUC's influence on micro-economic policy is greater than at the macro level, where its warnings about the dangers of a strong pound have gone unheeded. It is in macro-policy, however, where the self-interest of Labour and the TUC converges. Both have a vested interest in trying to reverse the growth of income inequality. If Labour doesn't narrow this gap then its *raison d'être* as a political party will be in doubt.

Research by James K Galbraith (son of John K) suggests that unemployment in the US accounted for 80 per cent of the fluctuations in inequality from 1920 to 1992. Unemployment hadn't fallen below 5 per cent since the 1960s. When it did two years ago inequality stalled climbing. Galbraith reckons globalisation and the break-up of monopolies would prevent higher wages for workers from fuelling inflation.

No one dares to mention incomes policy these days, but if the TUC could extend its ideas of partnership to embrace voluntary restraint on wages in exchange for faster economic growth, then both Labour and the TUC and above all poorer workers would gain. Such partnerships exist in Europe, including Ireland. The argument that it couldn't succeed in class-ridden Britain ignores the recent changes that have taken place between capital and labour.

Letters to the Editor

Internet porn at \$89,887 a page

THE Democrats have been very successful at concentrating the Clinton investigation solely on sex. The media is adding them (Leader, September 12). It was not, and is not, about sex. Clinton was the subject of a sexual harassment lawsuit by Paula Jones. One method of demonstrating sexual harassment is to prove a pattern of behaviour. During the discovery phase, Clinton denied a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Lying under oath is a felony. Thus, Clinton committed a crime and a criminal investigation ensued.

The attorney general of the US and a three-judge panel, asked Ken Starr to investigate political operatives on the other side did not. During this investigation Clinton lied, told others to lie, withheld evidence, tampered with evidence and abused the powers of his office. Jennifer Aaron Sheffield.

DON'T expect to read in your pages about the advanced missile technology Clinton & Co sold to the communist Chinese in exchange for campaign money or that his henchmen extorted hundreds of thousands of dollars from an impoverished American Indian tribe — traded for "Clinton favours" — or about the union boss Clinton helped target elected when "kicked back" a fortune to the Demo-

crats. Maybe you might mention these things, but never with the same self-righteous contempt you reserve for Starr, the only hero in this story, who the Clintonistas have smeared and denigrated into an American Satan. Deh McKay Isle of Man.

HAS Clinton ever offered his sexual favours to the following powerful political ladies: Mary Robinson, Cherie Blair, Cro Brunt, Harland etc? Has he ever lied to powerful political men: Blair, Yeltsin, Kohl, Aherne, Netanyahu, etc. If the answer is no, he stays un-impeached. Brian Payne, Newcastle upon Tyne.

THE dress that Monica claimed was stained by Bill was in her wardrobe for two years. In all that time, it could have been smeared with any secretion of Bill's, for example a month's scrapings collected by a vacuum cleaner, and it would have produced a copy of his DNA. Such evidence clearly cannot be admissible. Robert Dourmashkin, London.

A STAINED dress left un-mended for so many months looks remarkably like a trophy, whilst any president faced with the notorious sanctimoniousness of percheron middle-America, would hardly be likely to tell the truth about

any misdemeanours. Oppressive moral regimes inevitably create deceit and hypocrisy. Why expect anything else? Tony Vixicombe, Hove, Sussex.

WHEN is Monica Lewinsky going to apologise to President Clinton, his family and the American people for the trouble she has caused by opening her big mouth. Vivien Clare, Didmarth, Glos.

ANDY Kershaw (Letters, September 12) asks if it was a Cuban cigar. What I want to know is: did she inhale? Richard Gregory, London.

A WOMAN is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke. Peter Walker, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

A QUESTION on etiquette (Letters, September 10): is it pertinent to ask if Clinton's cigar was used with or without the band? James Hazan, London.

ONE of the worst aspects of this is that we chastened non-smokers will now be hured back to tobacco in its compelling new guise. Peter McKinney, Brentwood, Essex.

MARGARET Thatcher must be relieved she is no longer Prime Minister — just think what the "special relationship" might have meant. David Reggiori, London.

THE splendid Lawson (The America of Mr Starr, September 12) overlooked Starr's big flaw as a candidate for the US presidency: authoring Internet porn. Frank Howard, Chipping Sodbury, Glos.

HOW can the Russians not long for communism when the flagship of democracy allows a large team of exceptionally qualified people to spend four years and \$40 million to come up with a 400-page report crammed with essential facts like "The President fondled Ms Lewinsky's bare breasts with his hands and mouth and fondled her genitalia directly by pulling at her underwear, and so on." Mr Starr must read Fanny Hill with a torch when the lights are out. G Gil, London.

FOUR years, \$40 million dol-lars and 200 pages — \$89,887.64 per page. Be it Clinton or Starr, is it any wonder we Americans hate our lawyers? Gerard Kenslea, Los Angeles.



Only coal can meet energy needs

COAL burn at power stations in England and Wales has indeed been 22 per cent higher in 1997 than it was in 1997 (Prospects for coal, September 10). However, I must fundamentally disagree that this good news for coal is grounds for relaxing the moratorium on new, gas-fired station permissions. In fact, the arguments are quite the reverse. Government energy policy is founded on the principles of security, sustainability and diversity of energy supplies at competitive prices. The UK is moving into importing a large slice of its prime energy supplies as North Sea gas reserves run out. By 2020, according to government figures, up to 90 per cent of our gas requirements may be imported. With 50 per

cent of world gas reserves vested in two companies — Gazprom of Russia and the Iranian National Gas Company — the potential for disruption to our energy supply is frightening. The loss of cooling water in May at one of France's newest nuclear stations led to the unilateral decision to stop exporting electricity to the UK. Only coal can meet the long-term energy needs of the nation. The moratorium on new, gas-fired stations should remain in place. If it is removed prematurely, this will lead to coal power station and mine closures, and expose us to supply risks that only coal can safeguard against. G Mousley, Confederation of United Kingdom Coal Producers, Wakefield, W. Yorks.

'Heavenly' Eritrea a blight on the African landscape

OF what heaven on earth (The ancient train of empire that carries Eritrea's new dreams, September 9) is David Hirst speaking? Are there, perhaps, two countries called Eritrea? — one a progressive "African miracle" and the other a belligerent, increasingly isolated, dictatorship.

One of my lasting memories from a recent visit to Eritrea will be the number of desperate young men trying to cross the border into Ethiopia to avoid compulsory national service. These were not "asiduously schooled"; they were imprisoned.

Eritrea has indeed set itself apart in the current Eritrean-Ethiopian border conflict — when it indiscriminately bombed civilian targets in Makelle and Adigrat in which 55 civilians were killed, including 10 children, and 176 were wounded. And when, in scorching temperatures, it left 60 Ethiopian nationals to asphyxiate in an unventilated cargo container in Assab, and killed four more in an arson attack in Ala. The conflict has left 300,000 Ethiopians displaced, without food and possessions, at the peak of the agricultural season. There were no civilian casualties resulting from the Ethiopian air strikes on the military airport in Asmara. This is not a "battle". The Eritrean government's aggression and illegal occupa-

tion of the border areas of Ethiopia is a violation of the territorial integrity of a sovereign country.

Eritrea's continued rejection of peace proposals and subsequent defiance of the decisions of the Organisation of African Unity and the UN Security Council, when Ethiopia unconditionally accepted all, has made it impossible to resolve the crisis peacefully. Dorigen Hammond, London.

DAVID Hirst's article was a fascinating reminder of a beautiful country that I have visited only in wartime as a correspondent. In 1975, during the war for independence, the Eritreans seemed to have little chance of overcoming the powerful, American-equipped Ethiopian army.

Then, the changing balance of power in the world, the discrediting and overthrow of the Soviet-armed Dergue and the Eritreans' own determination worked to win independence. It is interesting that they are not ceding that hard-won independence to the IMF, World Bank and global marketers, who have colonised so much of the rest of the Third World. If the Eritreans can keep a railway engine that was manufactured in Italy in 1937 running, they may just succeed. Charles Glass, London.

Rights and wrongs on the Rock

A DELA Gooch's article (Morocco loses benefits of life on the rock, September 9) is based on pure fiction. Almost all the factual allegations are simply untrue.

There has been no rejection of any plea for benefits; there has been no finding by Gibraltar's Supreme Court that Mrs Ouzza is not entitled to health care; there have been no new immigration rules promulgated in Gibraltar, still less "by decree without a proper hearing in the assembly", as you assert.

The Gibraltar government has not set up any discretion-

ary fund and the acting Chief Justice has not ruled that Mrs Ouzza had no entitlement to health care. Mrs Ouzza's rights because she had retired and the benefits were tied to being a worker. Nor has there been any replacement of "residency passes" (a non-existent document in Gibraltar) with "visitor visas" (also a non-existent document).

The facts are that Mrs Ouzza retired in 1995 and left Gibraltar to reside in her native country, Morocco. She subsequently applied for a visitor's entry visa in 1997, as required by EU law, to visit her family

in Gibraltar. She was granted a multi-entry visa. On her last visit she was allowed to remain for a week. Her request for an extension to one month was granted. She then refused to leave and now wishes to remain in Gibraltar permanently. The Supreme Court of Gibraltar has ruled that she has no right of residency, which is hardly surprising given that Mrs Ouzza's lawyers made the application for her to visit her children for a one-month period, thereby recognising that Mrs Ouzza was simply a visitor, requiring a visitor's visa.

It is many years since Tony Blair actually told me that he wanted to create a meritocracy and then asked (in genuine astonishment) at my blank-eyed amazement: "Don't we all?" There was no irony in his response. Intelligence plus energy equals merit. Surely, he said, it is Labour's job to build on that equation. Hurdles which bar the path to personal advancement must be torn down and prizes must be awarded to those who have covered the ground most successfully. In short, life should be a flat race, not a steep climb. The distinction between winners and losers must remain.

Almost all the policy changes which characterise New Labour have contributed to the meritocratic ambition. Super-nurses — a tiny proportion of the profession promoted to encourage the others — is just the latest ex-

ample. The creation of "super-teachers", announced six months ago, is a tribute to the same idea. So is the refusal to increase the standard rate of tax (which would penalise energy and talent) and the publicly expressed belief that the economy needs more millionaires. It is not with the idea of meritocracy, with success, or that Philip Gould's focus groups have told him that the Labour Party was once too associated with life's failure. Despite his occasional appearance on Sunday morning mass, Tony Blair is the Protestant ethic personified. He thinks that success and virtue go hand in hand.

If poor old John Prescott had realised how much of a meritocrat the Prime Minister really is, he would have modified his plans for an integrated (and environment-friendly) transport policy. The car, second only to the house, is the symbol of meritocratic success — the positional good which may be stuck all morning in a traffic jam, but proclaims that intel-

ligence and effort have received their just reward. Super-nurses will soon exist to convince trainees that one day they will drive to hospitals in Mercedes and Jaguars.

THERE is, as you may have noticed, one little intellectual problem with the idea of meritocracy. It does not work. At least it does not work for most of the people, most of the time. All nurses cannot be super-nurses. And it is folly to believe that improvements in the salary and status of an elite will elevate the whole profession. Quite the reverse. It is not just the people at the top of the heap who forget those at the bottom. Society in general — particularly in this class-obsessed, tight little island — assume that as long as high-flyers are given plenty of air space, there is no need to worry about groundlings. Economically, the argument runs, we depend on the minority with energy and intelligence. And all moral problems are automatically solved. If there are no artificial

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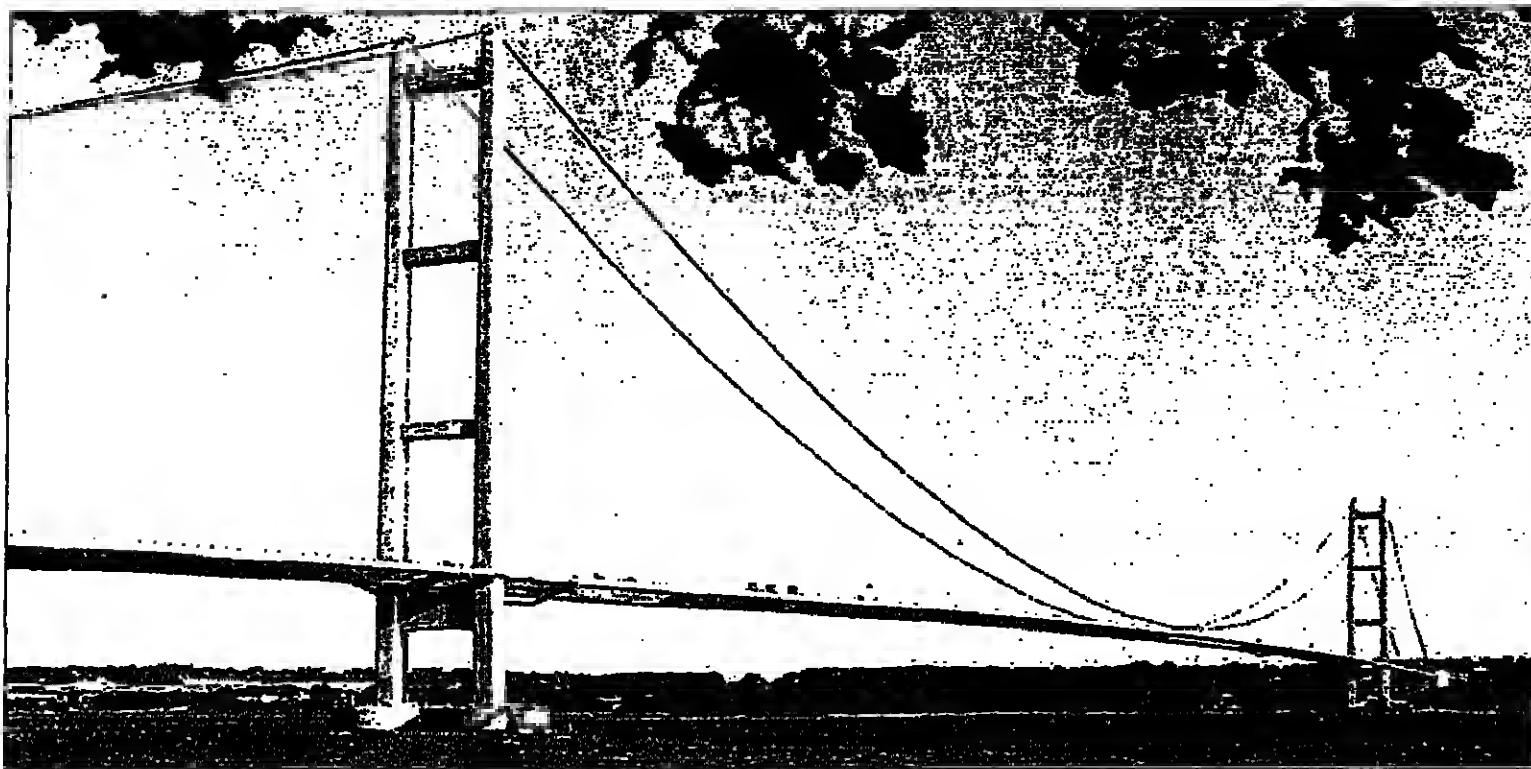
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Now You're Talking! SWIFTCALL

Roy Hattersley

LAST WEEK one of Great Britain's most senior trade unionists asked me a disturbing question. Had I, he enquired, noticed the similarities between Harold Wilson and Tony Blair?

I was too startled to give an immediate answer. So he filled the stunned silence by justifying the comparison. The Prime Minister, he said, responds to real problems by offering bogus — though headline-catching — solutions. He offered as evidence



Across the great divide... among Freeman's grandest projects was the Humber Bridge, which until this year was the world's longest

Sir Ralph Freeman

Bridging generations

UNDER the leadership of Sir Ralph Freeman, who has died aged 87, the consulting engineering firm Freeman Fox & Partners became a world leader in long-span bridge design. The firm was responsible for the Forth Road Bridge, the first Severn Bridge, the first Bosporus bridges and the Humber Bridge, which, with a main span of 1,410 metres, was the world's longest until this year.

As senior partner from 1963 until his 1979 retirement, Freeman was perfectly equipped to lead a firm working on the frontiers of technology. He combined vision and inventiveness with practicality, judgement and commercial sense.

Freeman's father, also Sir Ralph, was the founder of the firm and designer of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. His son was educated at Uppingham School and read engineering science at Worcester College, Oxford. On graduation he pursued his passion for bridges at the steelwork fabricators, Dorman Long. He worked on the construction of the 330-metre Birkenhead steel arch bridge over the Sabi river and the 320-metre span Otis Belt suspension bridge over the Zambezi in Zimbabwe — both designed by his father. En route to South Africa he met

Joan Rose. They married in Cape Town in 1939. He joined Freeman Fox & Partners in 1939 and worked on the Royal Naval propellant factory at Caerwent until he was commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1943. At the Experimental Bridging Establishment he adapted Bailey bridging components for use on a 400ft span suspension bridge, a design later used in Burma.

In July 1944, Freeman advised on the types of military bridges needed to cross rivers and canals during the Allied advance across Europe. He played the key role in the design and construction of three big-level Bailey bridges across the Rhine — the one at the steelwork fabricators, Dorman Long. He worked on the construction of the 330-metre Birkenhead steel arch bridge over the Sabi river and the 320-metre span Otis Belt suspension bridge over the Zambezi in Zimbabwe — both designed by his father. En route to South Africa he met

Fox & Partners in 1945 and became a partner in 1947. Two years later, he was appointed consulting engineer to George VI at the Sandringham estate, and remained in the role until he retired. Freeman described himself as "the Queen's plumber" — he was awarded a CVO in 1964. In 1949 the firm was awarded a consulting engineer



for the South Bank Exhibition — part of the 1951 Festival of Britain. The most important element was the design of the 365ft diameter Dome of Discovery. After the death of his father in 1950, Freeman took over co-ordination of the design and construction of all the building and facilities of the South Bank site. He was later awarded a CBE. The first of Freeman Fox & Partners' major post-war bridges was across Auckland

harbour in New Zealand. Others included the Volta, Forth Road, Erskine, and Bosporus. The aerobically-shaped deck of the Severn and Humber bridges revolutionised the design of long-span bridges. The firm's other projects included the M5 motorway, the M2 — its bridge over the Medway was then the world's longest pre-stressed concrete bridge — power stations at High Marnham and Aberthaw "B", the hydro electric scheme at Rheidal in Wales, and the then world's largest pumped storage hydro scheme at Ffestiog.

Radio telescopes in Canada and Australia, designed by the firm, were the first where the dish was supported by a single central support. It was also appointed, together with Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Partners, to design the Hong Kong Cross Harbour Tunnel.

In 1960 Freeman foresaw the need for traffic engineering skills, then a new branch of engineering, and formed a joint company with Wilbur Smith & Associates, of the United States. Freeman Fox, Wilbur Smith Associates carried out the London Traffic Survey for the Ministry of Transport and the Greater London Council. This was followed by the Hong Kong Mass Transport Study and Freeman secured a follow-up study for Freeman Fox & Partners into an urban rail

way for the colony. In 1972 this led to probably the firm's largest job, the design of the first line of the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway. Freeman was president of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1966-67, and was also chairman of the Association of Consulting Engineers. He was a member of the Royal Fine Arts Commission from 1968 to 1985, and was knighted in 1970 for services to engineering.

Away from his profession, he played golf, sailed and spent much time in his workshop. In later years, infirmity kept him chairbound, but his mind and memory remained razor sharp. He continued corresponding with friends around the world and writing letters to the technical journals on engineering matters.

His son, Anthony, shared the family passion for bridge design, and father and son maintained a technical correspondence until Anthony's death in a fall from Lisbon's Vasco da Gama bridge in Lisbon in 1987, a terrible personal tragedy for Sir Ralph. He is survived by his wife Joan, daughter Elizabeth, son Hugh and nine devoted grandchildren.

Colin R. Coulson

Sir Ralph Freeman, engineer, born February 3, 1911; died August 24, 1998

Gordon Downer

Asian words and water buffalo

GORDON DOWNER, who has died aged 72, was an extraordinarily gifted linguist, who developed a life-long fascination with Asian languages and peoples. He was born in Kingston, Ontario, and grew up speaking English from his Scottish and Irish-Canadian parents. French from his neighbourhood, and Sei Yip Chinese from playing with the children who lived next door.

The money he received as a 10th birthday present went on a Chinese dictionary, and when he was offered a Canadian government scholarship at the end of his wartime naval service (on the strength of his knowledge of a Chinese language, he had been deployed as a Japanese-English interpreter), he chose to study Chinese at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, graduating with first-class honours in 1950.

SOAS immediately took him on to the staff as assistant lecturer in Cantonese, rapidly promoting him to lecturer in Cantonese and, in 1963, to lecturer in Chinese. In 1970 he succeeded Owen Lattimore as professor of Chinese at the University of Leeds, taking early retirement in 1980.

Gordon was fluent not just in Sei Yip and standard Cantonese, but also in Mandarin. He could get by in Shanghaiese, and worked on Min dialects. At one time he taught the Hakka dialect by learning it a week ahead of his class, a feat which he admitted to have been a "tooth-smoking" risky. He picked up Japanese, Ainu, Thai, Malay, Basque and an Inuit language, and could handle a number of European languages competently.

Although he was an able

analyst of language, Gordon's classes in Cantonese were entirely free of linguistic jargon — he had no pomp and no pedantry. Instead, they consisted of pragmatic grammar lessons studied with brilliantly coloured extemporaneous illustrations from the adrelinin-soaked patter of Hong Kong.

I still use in class some materials which Gordon had transcribed from live conversations in the 1950s; they capture the spirit of the language and its speakers more accurately than any other. Gordon's skill as a teacher lay in his being able to communicate the life and gutsiness

which he discerned in the southern Chinese and in which he took such delight himself.

The major thrust of his interest and scholarly attention was deflected from China by the long years of isolationism, which prevented all but the most sycophantic fellow travelling academics from working there, and from the mid-1960s he began to work on the peoples and languages of China's south-east Asian mainland neighbours. Helped by generous overseas leave from

SOAS, he made a series of protracted trips to the highlands of Vietnam, Laos and Thailand, where he recorded the languages and customs of the semi-nomadic, agricultural Yao, the Green Miao, the White Miao, the Flower Miao and others.

SOAS became inured to his being out of contact for many months at a time, and his contemporaries recall the wondrous resignation with which the school authorities received a telegram from him after one such absence asking for a water buffalo and a consignment of corrugated iron to be sent by way of research expenses. He needed them to pay for help from a Yao headman, who would not take money.

Gordon's work on these rarely studied languages made him one of just one or two world specialists, but he published only a small part of his findings, most of it in the bulletin of SOAS, alongside his writings on tone patterns in Chinese poetry, one word derivation in early Chinese, and on Chinese historical phonology. At the time of his death he was nearing the completion of his most ambitious project, a Yao-English dictionary, and it remains to be seen whether anyone can be found to continue with it.

Gordon often said that money was useful only in books, parties and travel — he revelled in all three. He leaves his first wife, Lillian, a Chinese Canadian, and their children, Lesley and Geoffrey; and his second wife, Esther, a Hong Kong Chinese nurse, and their children, Alison and Belinda.

Hugh Baker

Gordon Boyd Downer, linguist, born February 6, 1926; died August 20, 1998

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN THE obituary for Inge Aicher-Scholl, page 18, the credited director is Victor Fleming.

IN A report headed, Scientists to build antimatter factory to supply perfect food, page 13, September 11, we made the child psychologist, Dr Spock, a member of the crew of the Starship Enterprise (for some trip only before returning the job to Mr Spock).

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Leonid Kinsky

'Why, you crazy Russian'

AMONG the glories of the Hollywood studio system in the 1930s and 1940s were the cherishing character actors who appeared in hundreds of films, often only as walk-ons, but always recognisable and welcome. Many of them had found refuge in Hollywood from the turmoil of Europe. Leonid Kinsky (sometimes Kinsky), who has died aged 86, left his native Russia in 1921, where he had specialised in mime, before ending up in the US.

After appearing in one silent film, *The Great Depression* (1926), he had to wait another six years before entering the talkies, in which his heavily Russian-scented English was used to such comic effect. In fact, whether Kinsky played an Arab (*The Garden of Allah*), an Indian snake charmer (*Lives of a Bengal Lancer*), a Latin (*Down Argentine Way*), a French artist (*Café Metropole*), or a Russian, he remained resolutely Russian.

Kinsky and his near-contemporaries, Mischa Auer and Gregory Ratoff, all born in St Petersburg, presented American audiences with a stereotyped image of Russians as eccentric and temperamental, until the cold war replaced them as villains.

Kinsky had one of his great moments in his first talkie, Ernst Lubitsch's

sparkling *Trouble in Paradise* (1932). Wrongly accused of stealing from wealthy widow Kay Francis, Kinsky, as an anarchist, makes a passionate speech about the Depression. Although the scene is meant to be comic, Lubitsch had the courage, and the right interpreter, to allow a reference to hardship to intrude into the bedonistic, sophisticated world he created. As Russians were associated with revolution, in his next film, the Marx Brothers' masterpiece, *Duck Soup* (1933), he had a bit part as a political agitator,

Russian rhythm... Kinsky with Bing Crosby, Martha Raye (right) and the cast of *Rhythm on the Range*

and in *Manhattan Melodrama* (1934), he was a Trotskyite. Gradually, however, Kinsky got more amiable parts, incongruously singing *I'm An Old Cowhand* in the Bing Crosby musical *Rhythm on the Range* (1936): was one of seven lovable old professors whose life is disrupted by striptease queen Barbara Stanwyck in Howard Hawks's *Ball of Fire* (1942), and very funny with fellow Russian Akim Tamiroff as a pair of confused Slavic fortune hunters in the Deanna Durbin musical, *Can't Help Singing* (1945). One of his largest roles was in the madcap 1941 Hal Roach comedy, *Broodway Limited*, in which he played a despotic movie director, who convinces the star of his latest film to pretend she has a baby on a publicity tour to make her seem less frivolous.

Kinsky semi-retired from the screen in the late 1940s to run a restaurant on Sunset Strip, as well as directing and writing industrial films. He was married three times, his first wife being the Viennese society beauty Iphigene Castiglione, whose life is disrupted by Tina York, 50 years his junior. "She supports me," he said in 1990. "I'm an 87-year-old gigolo."

In 1955 Kinsky returned to the big screen to play a doctor treating drug-addict Frank Sinatra in *The Man with the Golden Arm*, and then made sporadic appearances on TV, in series such as *Perry Mason* and *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* He was best known for his portrayal of Sascha, the ingratiating barman at Rick's Café Americain in *Casablanca* (1942).

After Humphrey Bogart has arranged for a young couple to win at roulette so they can pay for transit papers, Kinsky kisses Bogart on both cheeks. "Boss, you've done a beautiful thing," Bogart, half-singing, pretends to be displeased. "Why, yes, crazy Russian," he says, gently pushing Kinsky away.

It is as a "crazy Russian" that Leonid Kinsky will be most fondly remembered.

Ronald Bergan

Leonid Kinsky (Kinsky), actor, born April 18, 1903; died September 8, 1998

Birthdays

Paul Allott, cricketer, 42; Amanda Barrie, actress, 59; Denis Betts, rugby league footballer, 25; Sandra Flippo, painter, 75; Wynne Clapperton, Conservative MP, 42; Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, CE, former Labour minister, 82; Prof John Coates, electrical engineer, 91; Sir James Gubb, educationalist, 88; Morten Market, pop singer, 39; Michael Howard, organist, 76; Andy King, Labour MP, 50; Kate Miller, writer and feminist campaigner, 64; Sir Angus Ogilvy, 70; Ray Williams, actor, 60; Martin Wyld, head of conservation, National Gallery, 64.

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: if you're ever in the John Peel country at the "back of Skiddaw", it would be a pity not to explore the Flock at Caldbeck for there's nothing quite like it anywhere else in the national park. The Howk — strangely among hills of volcanic rock — is a limestone ravine with natural caves and caverns beside thundering waterfalls, rushing torrents and inviting pools, not unlike certain exciting corners in the Yorkshire dales. Indeed, a first view of the place may remind you of Gordale Scar.

You enter the ravine by walking along a track, shaded by trees, from the

crowded duck pond on the village green, and after a little way, step out into an open area of towering crags, and the sight and sound of falling water. Surprisingly, you see the massive ruins of enormous, red sandstone blocks, but the shape and situation of the remains, and nearly 150 years of weathering, almost makes them fit into the landscape. This was the famous bobbin mill once said to have had the largest water wheel in the country. Nowadays, you pass through the gorge along a fenced way with many stone steps, and further on a wooden bridge across the beck, and

carry on, if you like, to the main road. Many years ago, with a mountaineering friend, we did some scrambling around the rocks and caverns, but this doesn't seem to be encouraged nowadays. And, much longer ago, the Victorians came from far and wide to view the waterwheel and to picnic in and around the caves. To fill in your day, you can have a look at John Peel's ornate gravestone, or that of the "Beauty of Buttermere", in the crowded churchyard, or, better still, walk up High Pike, the most northerly two-thousander in Lakeland.

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West must find cash for global fire break

Larry Elliott

AS EVERY child knows, the Great Fire of London began in Pudding Lane and raged uncontrollably for days. When the flames died down, large parts of London were a smouldering heap of ashes.

With the benefit of hindsight, the Great Fire was not a disaster. London recovered quickly and the authorities learnt from their mistakes when it came to rebuilding the city.

That was not the way it seemed in September 1666 as the flames swept through the streets of London. The sense of helplessness and panic will have been familiar to those at the sharp end of the current financial turmoil.

There are lessons to be learnt. First, a crisis can spring from the most unlikely of sources — be it a baker's shop in Restoration London or the Thai baht. Second, once the fire has caught hold it is difficult to put out. Speculation about modern industrial economies suggests that at some point the turbulence will end and the rebuilding process can start. The problem is that we seem to be nowhere near that point at the moment.

Everything that is known about modern industrial economies suggests that at some point the turbulence will end and the rebuilding process can start. The problem is that we seem to be nowhere near that point at the moment.

The solution arrived at in 1666 was to call in troops to blow up blocks of houses, creating a fire break. Once that was done, the fire burnt itself out. Can something similar be done in the world's financial markets today?

The short answer is that something similar can be tried — but there is no guarantee of success. Globalisation has meant that the

linkages between economies are so strong that the creation of cordons *santitares* is not easy. But there are four countries essential to managing the financial crisis: Brazil, Hong Kong, Japan and the United States.

Brazil raised interest rates to 50 per cent on Friday in an attempt to put a halt to capital flight and head off a disorderly devaluation which would have ramifications not just for Argentina and Mexico but also the US and the EU. America's banking system is twice as exposed to Latin America as it is to Asia; the combined exposure of European banks is even higher.

Reports from Washington at the weekend suggested that the US Treasury and the IMF were trying to patch together a rescue plan. Having screwed up badly in Russia, the West must get it right in Brazil, a country which at least has a functioning government and a system of (little-used) capital controls that could be headed up to deter speculation. The Cardoso government's willingness to

for the Zurich Group, puts it: "If the Hong Kong dollar is forced into a devaluation, there will be consequences for other emerging markets as catastrophic as with the Russian default. There would be immediate selling of other currency board currencies such as Argentina's peso, the Estonian kroon and the Bulgarian lev."

Hong Kong's chances of clinging on to its currency peg depend to a large extent on what happens to China, and that in turn will be influenced by what happens in Japan. Amid all the stock market turbulence of the past month, it has been almost forgotten that Asia is gripped by a serious depression and there is no prospect of a recovery until 2000, at the earliest.

Gordon Brown, as chairman of the G7, is flying to Japan for talks tomorrow, and it is clear that the sooner the world's second economy can be dragged out of its prolonged slump the better. Whether the Chancellor can provide anything other than

monetary policy should help to underpin the banking system and make corporate finance cheaper.

Finally, there is the United States. As in 1973-74, a global economic crisis has come at a time when the American presidency has been weakened. Declining corporate earnings meant that Wall Street was due for a fall from its dizzy heights in any event, but the uncertainty surrounding Bill Clinton is unhelpful for market sentiment.

With large parts of the world suffering from full-scale deflation, it is up to the US despite its record trade deficit — and Europe to try to act as the buyers of last resort, providing a ready market for world output. But the chances of this happening are slim if the Dow Jones and the dollar continue to crash. If Mr Clinton falls on his sword over the next few weeks, it will not be because of the congressmen on Capitol Hill but because of the financial markets.

Ultimately, it may prove impossible to ring-fence Brazil and Hong Kong, and Japan's long recession and maintain robust American growth. It may be that a combination of over-production and structural deficiencies in the global financial structure will coalesce to turn a cyclical downturn into something much nastier. It may be that the herd instinct of markets prevents sensible policies from working.

But the debate now is about the form intervention should take, rather than whether it should happen. There is a sense that a dam has broken and all sorts of progressive ideas are now being proposed. Mr Hale, for example, is expressing concern about the power of the 4,000 US hedge funds and bank proprietary departments, with \$250 billion of capital dedicated to short-term trading activity, to destabilise small and medium-sized companies which are not equipped to cope with mass selling of their currencies or equity markets.

History shows that the Great Fire helped to purge the industrial West of its excesses. The industrial West will create an international clearing union incorporating Keynes's three conditions. This proposal is explicitly designed to: (1) prevent a lack of global effective demand — due to any nation building excessive foreign reserves or draining

Debate is about the form of intervention rather than whether it should happen

tighten monetary policy and cut spending should be met with a response from Washington. But building a firewall will not come cheap. A fund of at least \$25 billion will be needed to tide Brazil over.

Hong Kong has taken a different route. In effect, the authorities have defended the currency peg with the US dollar by nationalising the stock market. What was once the darling of free-market commentators has proved to be the biggest interventionist of all — pushing up prices and causing real damage to the hedge funds (which are also reported to have taken a battering in Russia). The Hong Kong monetary authority is following up this blatant (and laudable) tampering with the market mechanism by regulating short selling and placing restrictions on the use of margin calls.

The stakes are as high in Hong Kong as in Brazil. As David Hale, chief economist

moral support remains to be seen; most of the solutions to Japan's problems are in its own hands. The authorities need to staunch the flow of corporate bankruptcies and stimulate consumer confidence, but this is proving difficult. With prices falling, money is becoming more valuable and consumers are hoarding it rather than spending it. Printing money in order to push up prices may be the only way out, because that would reduce the incentive to save.

Last week's decision to ease monetary policy was welcome, even though there is a risk that it will lead to a weaker yen, thereby putting pressure on countries in the rest of the region — particularly China — which are relying on strong export growth, to keep their economies moving. But, in the present circumstances, anything that boosts growth prospects in Japan is likely to support the currency, and the easing of

Quack's cure for depression won't quiet our fears

Debate

Paul Davidson

AS ASIAN tigers collapse and Russian bears menace our entrepreneurial economy we are being haunted by the question "Can it happen again?" Can we have another Depression at the end of the 20th century?

Writing in 1936, Keynes noted: "It is enterprise which builds and improves the world's position. Speculators may do no harm as bubbles on the steady stream of enterprise. But the position is serious when enterprise becomes the bubbles on a whirlpool of speculation."

Comparing the pre-1973 economic boom with the period after 1973 indicates that, since 1973, enterprise has slowly become enmeshed in a whirlpool of speculation. The post-war period to 1973 was a golden age of economic development. The real GDP per capita growth rate for western nations between 1950 and 1973 was almost double the peak annual growth-rate of the industrialising nations

during the Industrial Revolution, while labour productivity's annual growth tripled. The 1973 oil-price shock was the event that ended the golden age. Policymakers threw away Keynes's prescriptions to constrain "hot money" international capital flows and fix exchange rates.

Instead, the laissez-faire philosophy was adopted, which made the exchange rate itself an object of speculation. With the removal of all restrictions on international capital flows in a world of flexible exchange rates, international financial transactions have grown 30 times as fast as the growth in trade.

When the world changed from a fixed to a flexible exchange-rate system, the annual growth rate in investment plummeted and equities in the West fell from 6 per cent, 1973's level, to less than 3 per cent. Lower investment growth means a slower growth rate in western nations — from 5.9 per cent in 1973 to 2.9 per cent — while labour productivity growth declined even more dramatically, from 4.6 per cent to 1.6 per cent.

Since 1974, Nobel Prize-winner James Tobin has been at the forefront in warning that free financial markets with

flexible exchange-rates can have a "devastating impact on specific industries and whole economies". Tobin advocates limit market volatility by increasing the transaction costs on all international payments via a small "Tobin tax".

Unfortunately, the empirical evidence is that any increase in such costs significantly increases market volatility. The Tobin tax is

the wrong tool for the speculative financial market problem, with all its implications for depression.

Are there alternatives that can restore the golden age? Since the Mexican peso crisis of 1994, pragmatists have advocated a lender of last resort to stop the loss of financial market liquidity and bail out international investors. In 1994, the US agreed to be a lender of last resort. With its liquidity facilities exhausted

when the Asian crisis of 1997 and the Russian bear emerged in 1998, the International Monetary Fund stepped in to lend money. When the IMF recently reached the end of its liquidity, director Stanley Fischer suggested the Group of Seven nations take over. This call for the G7 to be the lender is the equivalent of recruiting a volunteer fire-fighters to douse the flames in a burning, crowded theatre. Even if

Blood-letting can, as 17th-century quacks observed, reduce a fever — but at a terrible cost to the patient

the fire is put out, there will be many innocent casualties. Finally, "the man who broke the Bank of England", speculator George Soros, has suggested the establishment of a Russian currency board, fixing the exchange rate so domestic money does not exceed foreign reserves. When investors rush for the exit, the board maintains the credit rate by selling foreign reserves and reducing domestic money supply.

specify that price stability (that is, sound money) will take priority over all other considerations. Of course, these may simply have been a series of terrible mistakes and our champion may be about to burst. Ali-like, into the ring. Or it may be that the EU never has been anything other than a vehicle for the furtherance of business and financial interests.

Take your pick, but if you decide the water is warm, don't complain if you tread on something squishy and unpleasant.



Euro-fish is certain to get out of its depth

Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

HERE is a question for anyone studying marine biology. If you put together 16, or a similar number, of jellyfish, do you get (a) a fearsome barracuda, or (b) a large number of spineless creatures all lumped together?

I ask only because in some quarters, even at this late hour, there still seem to be plenty of people around who believe that this same operation translated into the terms of the single European currency will produce answer (a).

Sachs, the Bundesbank, Bill Gates, IBM and anyone else from this week's rogues' gallery of international capitalists (one minute it's multinational drug companies, the next it's the hedge funds, and we're not talking landscape gardening).

No one likes to pour cold water on this sort of wishful thinking, but when a new fighter climbs into the boxing ring to claim the heavyweight crown, it behooves the clear-headed punter to look at the newcomer's record before placing a bet, trousers and life

savings on the contender's coming performance. Individually, the governments of Euroland, when they were sparring with global capitalism, have been more of the jellyfish school and less in the jaws class. Of course, collectively the sum may be far greater than the parts. So let us look at the history in more detail.

The Treaty of Rome mandated free movement of capital long before its signatories even ventured into their earnest but watery "social action programmes". Not a promising

start. The Single European Act was explicitly a charter to allow big business to obviate national frontier restrictions. By the end of the 1980s, the European Commission had ordered the abolition of all exchange controls, not only those inside the European Union (which would have made some sense) but with the rest of the world as well.

In so doing, it signed the death warrant of its own exchange rate mechanism. Finally, the founding articles of the central bank that will manage the euro

specify that price stability (that is, sound money) will take priority over all other considerations. Of course, these may simply have been a series of terrible mistakes and our champion may be about to burst. Ali-like, into the ring. Or it may be that the EU never has been anything other than a vehicle for the furtherance of business and financial interests.

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Indicators

TODAY — UK Producer prices (Aug).
UK Current account (Jul).
TOMORROW — UK Retail prices (Aug).
UK Retail sales (Aug).
WEDNESDAY — Q1997 Trade balance (Aug).
UK Minutes of MPC meeting (Aug).
UK Unemployment (Aug).

UK Average earnings (Jun).
UK Public finance (Aug).
UK Industrial production (Aug).
THURSDAY — UK Retail sales (Aug).
GERS Bundesbank Council Meeting.
WEDNESDAY — Q1997 Trade balance (Aug).
FRIDAY — UK Provisional M4 (Aug).
Sources: HSBG Markets Limited.

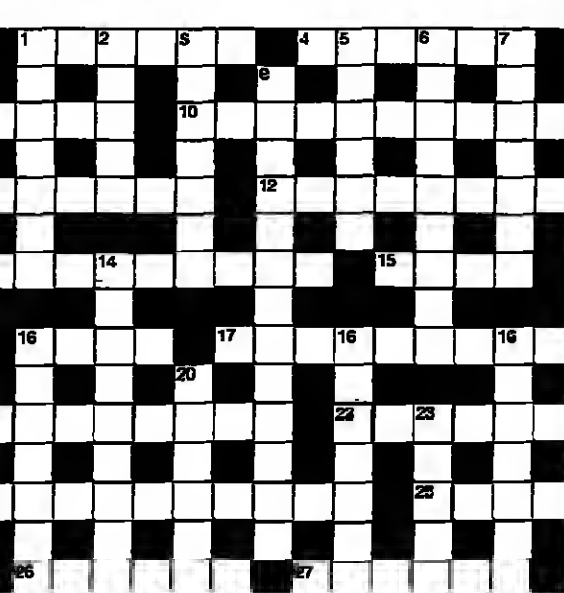
Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 2.703	Germany 2.761	Malaysia 6.29	Singapore 2.85
Austria 19.32	Greece 473.33	Malta 0.615	South Africa 9.96
Belgium 58.85	Hong Kong 12.65	Netherlands 3.109	Spain 235.36
Canada 2.49	India 70.75	New Zealand 3.109	Sweden 13.04
Cyprus 0.809	Ireland 1.091	Norway 12.47	Switzerland 2.288
Denmark 10.55	Israel 6.38	Portugal 273.73	Turkey 443.787
Finland 8.427	Italy 2.729	Saudi Arabia 6.136	US 1.645
France 9.239			

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Guardian Crossword No 21,379

Set by Rufus



- Across**
- Customer's right established in court (5)
 - Quietly communicates with advocate (6)
 - Student in Lincoln questioned (4)
 - Not altogether how pyramids are built (2,2,1,5)
 - Part of a barrel to break into, we hear (6)
 - Parental uncertainty during pregnancy (8)
 - Continues to be stubborn even though the cane's produced (6,3)
 - Prison for a hiltier? (4)
 - Ready to tackle anything but work (4)
 - See 23
 - Safe shipping line (8)
 - Outsize bloomer made by Egyptian god (8)
- Down**
- Tom takes in strip show (7)
 - French currency Euro's adopted (5)
 - Standard textbook for a senior lecturer (6)
 - A girl getting into trouble for hero-worship, possibly (9)
 - House journal carrying debatable material (7)
 - Lose if one puts it to swerve and behave differently (4,3,2,4)
- 14** One in the club has whip-round for cheese (8)
16 Far-seeing man belatedly absolved from guilt (7)
18 Initiator of enterprise needs one in support (7)
19 Prognostic doctor lifted one with common sense (7)
20 I'm moved with soft musical themes (6)
23,17 The best of friends (5,9)
- Solution tomorrow**
- Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 338 238. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATB.

Some think that my specific clearing union plan is Utopian. But if we start with the defeatist attitude that it is too difficult to change the awkward system in which we are trapped, then no progress will be made. "It" — depression — does not have to happen again if our policymakers have sufficient vision to try this post-Keynesian, innovative approach. The health of the world's economic system will simply not permit us to muddle through.

Professor Paul Davidson is *Holby Chair of Excellence in Political Economy, University of Tennessee*

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FinanceGuardian

IMF runs into cash crisis

Alex Brummer
Financial Editor

THE International Monetary Fund warned last night it is so strapped for cash after record levels of lending that it may be forced to borrow directly from its richer shareholders to deal with future global financial emergencies.

A series of calls on the IMF's resources, from South Korea to Russia, has left its resources at a dangerously low level. This has been exacerbated by the failure of the United States Congress to approve a capital increase to the IMF — a move which has won

support among all other major economic powers.

The fund's liquidity ratio — the amount it can safely lend — is at what one official described as a "historic low" of 28 per cent, against a more comfortable figure in the 60 to 70 per cent range.

If the market crisis were to spread from East Asia to Russia and on to Latin America, the IMF would find itself in the embarrassing position of passing the hat around its richer members in order to deal with the situation.

Shareholders including the US, faced by the Asian crisis, approved a 45 per cent increase in the IMF's capital from \$200 billion to \$290 billion in January 1998.

Despite repeated appeals America's share of the capital increase has been held up in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, which distrusts international financial institutions.

In the fund's annual report issued last night, it says, "the Asian financial crisis and its subsequent global reverberations absorbed an unprecedented amount of time" for the fund's board and staff and "also prompted a record level of IMF lending".

This, it argued, has "added immediately to the need to strengthen the financial resources of the institution to enable it to continue playing a fully effective role in the globalised world economy".

The IMF said the Asian crisis alone prompted the withdrawal of \$26.6 billion from its general resources, nearly four times the level of lending in the previous year.

Since the end of the financial year the fund has been instrumental in putting together a further loan package to Moscow worth up to \$2.5 billion (\$13.7 billion) — which has never been disbursed because of the trouble over its handling of the Asian crisis, for which it is accused of being high-handed and of

having applied economic policies unsuited to conditions in those countries concerned.

A senior fund official visiting London began the defence of the managing director of the IMF, Michel Camdessus, by pointing to the flexibility which has subsequently been built into IMF programmes with South Korea and Indonesia, and to the new transparency in its operations.

In particular the IMF highlights the issue of public information notices from May 1998 onwards, designed to summarise the IMF staff and executive board's views of the economic prospects of member countries, key information for bankers and businesses planning to con-

duct commerce in the countries concerned.

The fund believes that improved transparency in the emerging market economies is one of the keys to avoiding sudden crises, such as that in Mexico at the end of 1994, and in Thailand in 1997.

The IMF acknowledges that the Asian crisis will mean a slight lowering of its estimates for global and western growth when the it issues its world economic outlook report later this month. It is also concerned about recent developments in the capital markets — particularly in Russia and Latin America — and the potential impact of the millennium bug on the world economy.

Economics Notebook

Future rests in Europe's palm



Victor Keegan

THE world's media have been obsessed with the prospect of a political meltdown in the US. But a more interesting question in the long term is whether the iron grip that the US has had on the information revolution is beginning to loosen.

Even the possibility that the US might be toppled would not have been dismissed as fanciful like someone 20 years ago daring to question the divine right of Boeing to manufacture the world's passenger aircraft. Yet this year the European Airbus has overtaken Boeing in world market share.

Such is US technological hubris that a Business Week analysis of Boeing's troubles does not even mention Airbus. The magazine has a point. Airbus as a company should not exist. It is the child of governmental co-operation in Europe of the kind that Thatcherism scorned. It is neither nationalisation nor privatisation. It is the Third Way.

Advocates of unfettered free markets (who are running for cover at the moment) used to argue that if there was a gap in the market the private sector would fill it — and if it did not then by definition it was not worth doing.

The Airbus experience prompts the question whether Europe could repeat its success by challenging US leadership of the digital revolution. Answer? It could and it is.

There is a seismic shift in the forces driving the digital revolution. When the convergence of telephone, computer and television began, no one expected the telephone to come out on top. It was supposed to be the medium, not the message.

BUT the next stage of the digital revolution involves mobile phones, the evolving mobile computing enabling people to access the Internet, send and receive faxes, download books, visit electronic libraries and even watch TV.

In other words, the wired revolution is becoming unwired. This presents a dazzling opportunity for Europe to exploit its world lead in mobile phone technology.

Ericsson and Nokia of Europe are two such world leaders. Their recent agreement to use the Epcot operating system from the innovative British company Pion as the standard for future hand-held communication devices may be the first serious challenge to Microsoft's monopoly of operating systems. The fact that Motorola of America felt the need to sign up as well is significant.

Last week's launch of the Indian low-orbiting satellite system provides the world's first cellular phone grid. At

though it is not capable of sophisticated Internet connections, its successors will be.

What will be the "killer application" for the world wire? Possibly what Nicholas Negroponte (of MIT and Wired magazine) predicts will be the \$100 PC. He sees it as a unique tool to bring education to the developing world. Linking the sparse capacity of the new global communications system (which won't be saturated by urban traffic when the satellites pass over Africa) with a low-cost portable computer would remove the need for the Third World to lay down an expensive wired infrastructure.

The problem is that the hugely successful US computer industry is not keen to produce low-margin products like a \$100 computer. This is a golden opportunity for the EU. It should finance a competition (similar to what the BBC did to produce its own computer in the 1980s) for a minimalist wireless device that could bring the digital revolution to the disenfranchised in the West as well as the Third World.

This could prove to be the 21st century equivalent of the Airbus — Europe taking on the US at its own game.

IT is too early to say whether Europe is at the start of a technological renaissance. But remember, less than 10 years ago the US seemed to be facing terminal technological decline in the face of the unstoppable advance of Japan Inc. Now Japan is on its uppers and the US rules supreme. Is it Europe's turn? There are other signs of revival in the air.

Britain is about to launch the world's first digital terrestrial television service. Britain's film industry is showing signs of combining its disparate elements. Our transmission companies — especially British Telecom and Cable & Wireless — are beginning to exploit their strengths. The Post Office may not be far behind if the Government bestows the commercial freedom it craves.

And look what is happening to the BBC. A few years ago the commercial television franchises were allowed to merge in order to build up the customer base which allegedly was needed for them to become world players. Since then they have done very little. But the BBC has confounded its critics again by becoming a more powerful world force, exploiting digital television and the Internet to the full.

Governments may not be able to create wealth directly but they have a crucial role as enablers and in removing obstacles to progress (like the monopolistic practices that keep European telephone charges so high, thereby preventing rapid exploitation of the new technologies). The shift from the wired to the unwired revolution provides a rare chance to propel Europe into the vanguard of progress.

The EU should not be distracted by the traumatic effects of monetary union from realising that something very important is stirring.

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Russians took their financial and political crisis in relaxed fashion yesterday despite some politicians' attempts to stir things up

PHOTOGRAPH: DMITRY ASTASHEV

New banking code outlaws built-in obsolescence for savings accounts

Tom McGhie

BITAIN'S banks today announce a new code of conduct designed to change radically the way they treat savers.

The new code should bring to an end the problem of "obsolescent accounts".

The decision to establish such a code came after a sustained campaign led by David Davis, the Conservative chairman of the Commons public accounts committee. He has been trying to force the banks to adopt better practices, particularly over discontinued accounts.

He accuses them of "using loyal customers to subsidise new accounts, which offer much higher interest rates, to win market share".

The banks were cutting rates to a nominal amount when an account had been left with them for some years. In one notorious case, it was



David Davis MP: campaign for fair treatment of savers

discovered that a 98-year-old customer had a savings account with interest of 0.44 per cent when the base rate stood at 9 per cent.

The revised code is expected to contain changes such as an annual requirement for all savers, rather

than just those with obsolete accounts, to be notified of the rates on all the savings accounts offered by the bank.

The banks could also be required to warn customers about changes to account structures. Northern Rock provoked an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading when it recently changed its account range at very short notice.

Mr Davis claims he forced the changes by threatening to introduce statutory controls in the forthcoming Financial Services Bill.

The vast gap between the old "obsolete" interest rates and the base rate has saved banks millions of pounds while in many cases costing the consumer dear.

Under the new code, banks agree that no customer should be left with an obsolete account. Instead, the banks promise that under the code saving accounts will always offer "fair and reasonable" rates.

The banks have also agreed to tackle the "shrinking rate" problem, highlighted recently by a case also concerning Northern Rock, when it was discovered that the bank had abruptly changed its interest rate after tiring its savers with the offer of high rates.

From today, customers will have up to 60 days' notice of when saving rates are going to be changed.

The new code will also tackle the abuse of the "instant access" accounts, which in reality come with strings attached. In some cases, banks have imposed financial penalties if customers dip into their accounts more than once a month.

Last night Mr Davis said: "This is a victory for common sense, and a victory for the consumers. It will also be very good for the banks' reputation. I am very pleased with the outcome."

Whitbread stops 5,000-job plan

Tom McGhie

THOUSANDS of pub and hotel jobs are at risk as a result of brewing group Whitbread's decision to delay expansion.

Poor trading conditions and fears of a looming recession have put the break on the creation of 5,000 jobs in new pubs and restaurants.

The group has also been influenced by the soaring price of high-street sites. Staff competition for sites has been sparked by the popularity of themed restaurants.

A spokeswoman said Whitbread had no intention of paying "silly prices" for sites, especially with the possibility of a recession. Whitbread believes that if the economy enters recession a sharp fall in site prices will create opportunities for high-street locations bargains.

Senior Whitbread executives have told analysts that

the group's investments will be refocused on David Lloyd sports centres and budget hotel-chain Travel Inns.

Whitbread has nearly 200 Travel Inns, and the hotels are proving so popular that the company is now opening a new hotel every 10 days.

David Lloyd fitness centres are the most profitable part of the company, and it plans a further eight centres in addition to the present 22.

The decision to put on hold its ambitious expansion plans will stun the industry.

Only in May, Whitbread said it would spend £300 million to expand brands including Hoghead, Brewer's Fayre, Café Rouge and Bella Pasta.

The City has become increasingly nervous that Whitbread profits will start to show as demand shifts to higher interest rates, and is expected to react well to the decision to switch investments to high growth areas like health clubs and hotels.

CBI denies stress is significant cause of absenteeism

Adrian Haddock and Larry Elliott

THE average British employee is absent from work for almost two weeks in every year, costing business £11 billion in 1997. The CBI will reveal today.

A study by the employers' organisation shows that absenteeism averaged 8.4 working days last year.

The Bupa-sponsored survey estimates that 197 million working days were lost through absence last year, a rate of 3.7 per cent of working time. This is the same figure as last year.

Absence is highest among public-sector employees, av-

eraging 9.3 days a year, against 7.4 days for those in the private sector. In addition, manual workers took on average four more days off than non-manual workers.

The highest absence levels are in the media, the public sector, manufacturing, and hotels and restaurants. The lowest levels are said to be in professional services, retail, and hi-tech industries.

On a regional basis, non-manual workers in the East Midlands had the lowest absence rate, 4.6 days a year for the average employee. In the North-west and Greater London, manual workers were

absent 13.5 and 13 days respectively.

The survey blames minor and serious illnesses for most cases, with family commitments another frequent factor. Work-related stress and long hours were not considered significant causes of absence. The survey cited as

evidence the tendency for the highest levels of absence to be found among those working a standard 40-hour week.

"The CBI's view on work-related stress contradicts several other surveys which show that long hours and pressure at work affect the health of employees."

The CBI's director of human resources, John C. Land, said: "The huge cost of absence continues to be a cause for concern for British business."

He said management needed to play "an increasingly active role in controlling absence", adding: "More flexible working arrangements can help employees strike a balance between working and home life, and contribute to reducing absenteeism."

Bupa's occupational health specialist, Kevin Holland-El-Nol, wanted businesses to carry out an audit to develop a strategy that would direct healthcare resources at supporting staff and reducing absenteeism.

breakfast, moping at work and grumpy at everyone — is a myth," says Jon Kinsey of British Gas.

However, one Monday legend is confirmed: eight out of 10 people admit "taking sickies" on that day.

Start-of-the-week spurge has replaced traditional Monday mope

MONDAYS are no longer miserable, according to a new survey, writes Steve Busfield.

Only one in five people admits to getting Monday blues, while more than half claim the once-dreaded day

is, in fact, "happy-go-lucky".

The "Lighten Up" survey — commissioned by British Gas as a plug for today's launch of its role as an electricity supplier — says that

60 per cent of the British public wear their favourite clothes or spoil themselves with a lunchtime treat or spot of present-buying.

"That Monday morning feeling — miserable at

breakfast, moping at work and grumpy at everyone — is a myth," says Jon Kinsey of British Gas.

However, one Monday legend is confirmed: eight out of 10 people admit "taking sickies" on that day.

مكتبة من الصحف

27/09/1998

In the acclaimed 12-page sports section



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The Guardian Sport

Monday September 14 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

Tottenham go from bad to worse

Premiership: Tottenham Hotspur 0 Middlesbrough 3

Ricard double refreshes Boro

Gazza's return haunts Spurs

David Leary

THE return of Paul Gascoigne to his old haunts yesterday left Tottenham looking as if they had seen a ghost. Not that he was the principal reason why Middlesbrough inflicted Spurs' second 3-0 home defeat of the season.

Although Gazza left the field to a standing ovation from his old admirers in White Hart Lane, this was more an appreciation of past performances than of what he had achieved in this match. And in any case Tottenham's fans needed something to applaud after seeing their team's continued defensive frailties efficiently punished by a Boro side with confi-

Match stats

	Tot	Midd
Possession	54%	46%
Attempts on target	8	8
Attempts off target	9	6
Goals	0	3
Offsides	0	3
Bookings	2	0
Sendings-off	0	0

dence lifted by a midweek victory at Leicester.

Gascoigne had scored the winning goal at Filbert Street but yesterday Middlesbrough owed more to Hamilton Ricard, their much-criticised Colombian striker, whose two goals in seven minutes around the half-hour gave Bryan Robson's side a grip of the game.

When Vladimir Kinder added a third two minutes after replacing Gascoigne late in the match, the home supporters began to evacuate the stands so quickly that one might have thought there had been a security alert.

The solid defensive base from which Middlesbrough won the match magnified the shortcomings at the other end of the pitch. Gary Pallister, making his second appearance for Boro since returning to Teesside from Manchester United, displayed a massive authority which Les Ferdinand, Tottenham's lone striker until Chris Armstrong joined him for the second half, never seriously challenged.

On paper Robson's decision to play four centre-backs in a five-man defence looked questionable but this ignored the versatility of Gianluca Festa, who moved to the right and effectively played David Ginola out of that part of the match on which Tottenham might have made an impression. The rest was largely about the consistency with which Andy Townsend carried the play into the home half and linked up with Ricard and Mikkel Beck.

Tottenham's midfield, lacking the injured Darren Anderson, was one-paced and unimaginative and it is hard to believe a heavy-legged Nicola



High-armed combat... Tottenham's Italian full-back Paolo Tramezzani (left) and the Colombian striker Hamilton Ricard, who scored twice for Middlesbrough, tangle at White Hart Lane

PHOTOGRAPH TOM JENKINS

Berti would have stayed on until the end had Allan Nielsen not limped off early in the second half. Nielsen's replacement by Moussa Saib was the second of three quick substitutions made by David Platt as he strove to add fresh dimensions to his team's one-eyed approach.

Having seen Tottenham beat Blackburn 2-1 four days earlier, Platt, back in charge of team matters for the first

time since his first reign ended abruptly in 1997, was quickly reminded of how ephemeral success in football can be. Spurs' 3-0 defeat by Sheffield Wednesday in their first home match of the season had precipitated the end of Christian Gross's nine-month term as manager. Whoever ends up as his successor will have much building to do.

The defensive foundations

surely have to be redone. Well taken though Ricard's goals were, the ease of their creation was embarrassing. After 24 minutes, following a precise long pass from Pallister, Ricard exchanged passes with Beck before surging through a yawning gap in the middle to beat Kasper Beardsen. After 31 the Colombian met Dean Gordon's throw on the left with a neat flick up to Beck before gathering the

ball. Dade's return header down and bursting through so equally square, flat defence to score again.

Shortly before half-time Ferdinand at last reached a centre before Pallister or Colin Cooper but only to head high over the bar. Late in the game Armstrong flung himself full length to meet Ginola's cross at the far post and this time the ball went wide. By the time Armstrong headed Saib's centre against a post it was all but over.

Ricard took the Man of the Match champagne and in a bizarre presentation ceremony uttered the only words of English he appeared to know. "Liverpool, brilliant, pleased," he said.

Gascoigne's performance was a cameo rather than central to Middlesbrough's victory. Nowadays he has quick feet but slow legs and, although he made more attacking runs the longer the game progressed, his lack of fitness

did not entirely accord with Robson's observation after the match that the player was all but 100 per cent.

The reality was that, given better opposition, Gascoigne might well have undone his colleagues' good work through the number of times he was either caught in possession or failed to make a tackle when one was demanded. Still, Robson was right to point out that two away wins in five days had provided the perfect retort to accusations that Boro and Beardsen had become synonymous.

Kinder replaced Gascoigne after 84 minutes and scored after 86 when his powerful shot from the left was half-stopped by Beardsen, who then failed to keep it out of the net.

"We didn't have that zip," said Platt sadly. Certainly Tottenham had gone into the match with one or two buttons undone.

Warming up for Europe

Claret drawn good - eight English, five Scottish - are in action in the first European competition this week. The last league matches before their Continental involvement began last night for Boro, who will face Rangers in the UEFA Cup.

● Arsenal - UEFA Cup, home to Borussia Dortmund, Norway, tomorrow

● Manchester United - UEFA Cup, home to Lazio, tomorrow

● Liverpool - UEFA Cup, away to Valencia, tomorrow

● Leeds United - UEFA Cup, home to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Tottenham - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Chelsea - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Blackburn - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Newcastle - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Aston Villa - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Everton - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Nottingham Forest - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Derby County - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Sheffield Wednesday - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Sheffield United - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Preston North End - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Millwall - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Luton Town - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Walsley - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Notts County - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Grimsby Town - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Barnet - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Boreham Wood - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Hemel Hempstead - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Slough - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Maidenhead - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Reading - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Wycombe Wanderers - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Dagenham & Redbridge - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Ebbsfleet United - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Dover Athletic - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Maidstone United - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Tonbridge & Arden - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

● Weald United - UEFA Cup, away to Sporting Lisbon, Portugal, tomorrow

Religious Education

ABBOT DALE - WORSHIPPED SINCE 1799

Clogger

A sideways glance at soccer



Their kit don't fit
No. 45 Man Utd striker

An alluring offer for Mr Murdoch on Wednesday, which no doubt his accountants are already examining. If Sky decide against it, surely Live TV could come up with a decent (or indecent) proposal.



The Premiership Hall of Shame XI
Top pantomime villains of the Nineties

Peter Schmeichel Unique contribution to race relations
Graham Kelly Steely will to protect the game's interests
Graham Taylor Fatal error of trying to be chairman with the press
Sir John Hall Paper profit nearly £100m on club investment
George Graham Charming personality brought uncoloured gifts
Paul Gascoigne Where do you start?
Eric Cantona Have-a-go hero of anti-hooligan campaign
Alan Shearer Swift decline from superstar to Mr Grouchy
Fabrizio Ravanelli Undisputed icon of "mercenary foreigners"
Andy Gray Leading light of Shouting Commentators Union
Rupert Murdoch Enjoys football so much, he bought it

A life in pictures

Ron Atkinson



1978 Joins West Brom.
Trim in tracksuit



1982 Joins Man Utd.
Level-headed in leather



1982 Watches Man Utd.
play. Forlorn in furs



1986 Leaves Man Utd.
Resentful in raincoat



1993 Wembley win with Villa.
Shocking in shades



1996 Replaced at Coventry.
Hangdog in herringbone

Ask the experts

Which England international played for the shortest time?
The joint briefest are Jimmy Barrow, who went off injured after eight minutes of his only appearance, against Ireland in 1928, and Peter Ward (right), who came on as a sub for the same amount of time against Aus-

tralia in 1980. Recent near-misses include Ugo Ehiogu (14 minutes against China in 1996) and Chris Sutton (11 against Cameroon in 1997).
Adam Knight of Brighton What was the most garish combination of colours worn by a British team?
A purely subjective opinion of course, but Birmingham City's strip of yellow shirts and orange shorts from the late seventies must be a contender.
Julie Skipton of Haver-

Each week we print answers to a selected question. **This week:** How did Mrs Thatcher come to be patron of Blackburn Rovers even though she hates football? (A Miles of Dothing). Which player is known to have held the most extreme political views? (The King of Diss). Send answers and questions to the address below, or post them on the Guardian's football bulletin board at: football.guardian.co.uk/footballbulletin

State of the nation

Yugoslavia

Population 10 million (now comprises only Serbia and Montenegro of the six former Yugoslav territories).
Unlikely champions Last season's winners Obilje were an obscure Belgrade outfit until they linked up with the alleged war criminal and gangster Zeljko Raznatovic. Pioneer a steady trickle of imports began in the late 1970s after the Yugoslav government lifted transfer restrictions. Among the first were Southampton's long-serving Ivan Golac and a bevy of goalkeepers, including Chelsea's lively eccentric Peter Borota (below).
Stranger in a strange land Vladimir Petrovic, bought by Arsenal amid much fanfare in 1983, played only 10 games. He later coached Red Star Belgrade for several years.
Important import Raddy Antic scored the famous goal for Luton that relegated Manchester City in 1993 and inspired David Platt's brown-suited playing dance. Less well remembered are the two scored by the late Bosko Junkovic for Middlesbrough, which killed off Ipswich's 1981 title hopes.
Player's tip "I had no language problems because I'd grown up with the music of the Kinks, the Stones, the Who, the Troggs and the Small Faces" — Ivica Golac.
Manager's tip "Montene-

A-Z of British football

E

... is for Experts, first employed as a panel by ITV during the 1970 World Cup and inflicted upon us ever since. Classic example: Jack Charlton, who fought a stalwart campaign in favour of the professional foul during the 1974 World Cup.
grins are naturally very lazy. Very lazy and usually very tall — former Kilmarnock goalkeeper Drago Lekovic, himself a tall Montenegrin. Contribution to world football Several thousand globe-trotting coaches, led by the ubiquitous Bora Milutinovic, who led his fourth country, Nigeria, at the World Cup this year. Contribution to English football Yugoslavians were the opponents in the 1963 European Championship semi-final when Alan Mullery became the first England player to be sent off in an international. Euro fighters Red Star were European Cup winners in 1961, beating Marseille on penalties after a truly grim 0-0 draw. Euro fighters Red Star's city rivals Partizan, who play Newcastle in the Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday, contrived to go down 6-0 away to Dynamo Dresden in the 1970-71 Fairs Cup.

Refwatch

Paul Durkin

Home town Portland, Dorset
Home town's other closure to fans
Almost an island setting for Thomas Hardy's *The Well-Beloved*; Portland Bill, Occupation Shopping centre manager, Hobbs Squash, running local boys' club.
Trademark gesture Arms clasped behind back to indicate play-on like a hand-cuffed prisoner.
Saturday highlight Using his back of height to nip under Patrick Vieira's armpit when confronted.
Brandishes cards in the manner of ... a man trying to put up a poster with dog-eared hiltack.

The gaffer tapes

"I think he was more comfortable wearing that than his own shirt."
Joe Kinnear on referee David Elmsley's alternative strip — an Aston Villa training top — donned against Wimbledon. Now, Joe, that penalty...
"We were like somebody going to the dentist who knows there is some pain coming somewhere."
Gordon Strachan a couple of hours after dragging Coventry-ficking and screaming from the team coach at Old Trafford.
"It feels a bit scary."
John Gregory with problems of his own at the top — more vertigo than tooth decay.

Off the park life



Here's Jürgen feeling right at home, having swapped White Hart Lane for the Comedy Cafe. What was the occasion for his visit there in 1996? Post, fax or e-mail your answer to the address below to win your choice of this month's new titles from the Football Book Club (0174-861 1666 for a catalogue). Please include a phone number.
Last week's answer Alan Shearer was modelling another new England shirt. Its introduction was widely criticised for exploiting Aus-
Winner Extra Devonshire of London £18

Clogger welcomes contributions. Write to the Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3NE. You can e-mail us at clogger@guardian.co.uk or fax us on 0174-713 4107

Football

Premiership: Newcastle United 4 Southampton 0

Gullit's heir is earmarked

Michael Walker

COAL has gone, ram-raiding has almost died out and huccaneering No. 9s in black-and-white stripes are seen rarely at St James' Park. No, to know what Tyne-side's major export is these days you have to walk the streets of Newcastle and just listen.

What can be heard, all that can be heard, is rumour. Rumour about Newcastle United is constant, often salacious and frequently wrong. Sometimes it is right, though. Stories of Rudi Gullit being the new manager started in the summer even as the then incumbent Kenny Dalglish was signing Greeks, Germans and Frenchmen. What happened next? After two games Dalglish was out and Gullit was in.

The rumour was spot-on, which makes the following tale worth more than instant dismissal. Rumour has it that the search is already over for Gullit's successor. If that sounds staggering, wait for the next bit.

According to the hoarse whispers, the club's next manager already knows who he is, and his name is Alan Shearer. Conspiracy theorists note that Gullit's contract expires on June 30, 2001, should he take up the option of the third year — and that is the same day Shearer's playing contract expires. Shearer has always said he wants to become a manager. Blackburn's assistant, the play-



Eyes on the ball... Newcastle's Alan Shearer holds his focus in the face of Jason Dodd's equally concentrated challenge

manager's position when he was 25 came too early but, approaching 31, Shearer might feel the time is right. All this presupposes Gullit and Shearer being around — hardly a certainty — but the speculation made a post-match scene in a corridor at St James' Park on Saturday all the more interesting. Gullit, back against the wall, was explaining his thoughts on a few aspects of his new employers — "this club is well organised in every way; that surprised me" — when Shearer passed on his way to be interviewed. Every glance and gesture between the two men has been studied intently since.

Gullit replaced Shearer's friend Dalglish, and a lack of warmth is discernible. Despite having scored twice, his first goals in 10 Newcastle games, Shearer left the pitch unsmiling as he walked past Gullit in the corridor. No friendly banter was exchanged. Shearer did say one thing, however, and in an unnecessarily loud voice: "I'm just talking about the match."

No doubt this was a reference to stories linking him to Internazionale — stories he knew would be in yesterday's papers — but it was the jarring nature of the volume which struck all those present. Gullit answered queries

about his centre-forward and Internazionale thus: "Alan Shearer is not for sale. He's staying for sure. He is in my plans and knows that." However, Gullit's next sentence was: "I want him to be part of Newcastle. I don't know if he wants to be part of it."

Match stats

	Newcastle	Southampton
Possession	57%	43%
Attempts on target	10	3
Attempts off target	9	2
Corners	5	3
Fouls	13	12
Offsides	5	3
Bookings	2	3
Sendings-off	0	1

Everton 0 Leeds United 0

Graham makes case for refund

Ian Ross

WHEN the closest your side come to scoring at home for the first time this season is a 60-yard punt from the touchline delivered by Alec Cleland, a full-back whose overall lack of quality is symptomatic of a far deeper malaise within the club, there can be no grounds for any real optimism.

When their most potent tactic is to rifle the ball forward, often relentlessly and without thought, to a towering striker who has long since taken to strutting his shoulders in frustration, there is cause for concern. In fact Everton, under Walter Smith's stewardship, are proving as consistent as ever in short-changing their loyal support.

The manager will argue that performances such as this can be put down to teething troubles, and with so many new faces — five and more to follow — it is a fair point. But so is the assertion that professional sportsmen who boast the bank balances of City brokers and the elevated profiles of minor royals should be capable of blending their ball-kicks with tactical wisdom.

The sight of so many cultured feet attempting nothing more ambitious than landing a lofty pass on to the head of Duncan Ferguson was utterly repellent. Is it any wonder that Smith is believed to be toying with the idea of sanctioning the striker's sale? To go so low would represent a gamble, but if it would give Everton a second tactical option then he should push ahead.

The shorthandedness with which the Everton players clung to the belief that Ferguson's height and aerial prowess would provide them with an escape route from mediocrity was remarkable. Until he began to sulk late in the day, the Scot did everything he could to ignite a wretched game but he was a starving man squabbling over crumbs while his supposed foil, Nick Barmby, continued his gritty attempt to make an acceptable art form out of doing huffer-all.

West Ham United 2 Liverpool 1

Redknapp revels in poverty

Jeremy Alexander

PART of the problem Manchester United fans have with the club is playing in some sort of a back-to-back, they will not be able to get the time off for matches on Mars. Another part is that there will be no credit and little fun in beating less advantaged English clubs, even Liverpool. Lucky are the fans of West Ham.

Harry Redknapp rubbed his last pennies together on Saturday to spark an excellent performance from his threadbare squad. It was a reprise of last year's victory: same score, same scorers, same circumstances, same soft centre in Liverpool's defence. Then West Ham had lost 4-0 midweek to Arsenal. Last week they led Wimbledon 2-0 and went down 4-3. The manager said he "had not given them a rucking as it might have produced the wrong response. We have a bubbly dressing-room", and he left it to them — Ian Wright, acting captain for Steve Lomas, and Neil Redmond.

Wright and John Harrison. Liverpool did not help themselves. They left Karlheinz Riedle on the bench, "resting" before tomorrow's UEFA Cup match but upsetting the shape which had them unbeaten on top of the table. Michael Owen was stranded up front, the defender Steve Harkness lost in Liverpool's attempt at a "tighter, stiffer midfield". They even completed their pre-match jerks on individual red mats, precautionary for prayers or against house-

maid's knae. As Gerard Houllier admitted: "We defended too deep." They did not defend at all at Lampard's early corner and Harrison, arriving like a bull at a garden centre, caught them still on their knees. The game hummed with slick interplay and hawed only for a card-shary referee. Late on, not unreasonably, he booked Redknapp for a slow throw. "Laz wouldn't hurt a fly," said Redknapp logically. The fly would have flown by the time Laz had his swatter ready.

Someone recharged the fading bubbles at the interval and at once Berkovic scored with his fourth touch of a substantial move. Aware that they are never more vulnerable than when three up, Wright went close twice, forgoing the chance to declare his vested interests. Redknapp's late header had Berkovic conceding: "We were hanging on for grim life at the end."

A report last week revealed an increase in compulsive shopping syndrome among men. When it comes to footballers Redknapp has proved a sufferer. Last week he had a Frenchman from the Euro 96 squad at Upton Park — "smashing player, available on a free". The name escaped him but why remember? He cannot consider the wages. But, as fans at Old Trafford know, dreams are part of the fun.

Sheffield Wednesday 3 Blackburn Rovers 0

Timely words from Wilson in Italian ears work wonders

Alan Biggs

THERE were rumblings all week about ructions in the elitist quarter of the Hillsborough dressing-room, but when the earth finally shook it was Blackburn Rovers who were left quaking. Could it be that Sheffield Wednesday's new manager Danny Wilson, who harbours high working-class principles, has succeeded in getting Paolo Di Canio and Benito Carbone to toe his democratic line? Or was this emphatic and surprise victory a fleeting glimpse of what two gifted but often wayward performers can produce when the stage is set?

The jury is still out on the flamboyant Italians and it is likely that Wilson is also waiting to pass judgment. It is understood that he fined both players after a training-ground incident. If, as suspected, they were punished for persistently calling Wilson's authority into question, then they now know who is boss.

In the event there was no sulking response, no dummies thrown, except the ones the pair sold to Blackburn's defenders, but if Di Canio's aftermath silence was anything to go by he has been suitably chastened, not least because his declaration that Wednesday would struggle to avoid relegation without three major acquisitions was made to look slightly foolish.

What he had overlooked was that in Wim Jonk, Wilson has already acquired a player of far-reaching influence. Because of the Dutchman's mid-field mastery, Di Canio and Carbone suddenly found the chore of playing for an unfancied club a joy again, after three defeats in four games. Jonk was not directly involved in any of the goals — first-half strikes from Peter Atherton and Andy Hinchcliffe and a finishing flourish by Di Canio — but his brush strokes were clearly visible on the canvas of this whitewash. His passing, long and short, gave Wednesday control.

Strangely, the game appeared to make a mockery of Wednesday's acknowledged need for new players, and the assumption that Blackburn, despite disappointing results, have a strong line-up was made to look equally suspect.

Certainly, with the captain Tim Sherwood restored to midfield after his dalliance with Tottenham, Rovers had the nucleus of the side that earned a UEFA Cup campaign, which starts at home to Lyon this week.

Their manager Roy Hodgson has no option but to believe, as he said afterwards, that this was just an "off day". If not, a Blackburn side, for whom the eager Kevin Davies has yet to score after his £7.5 million move from Southampton, have major problems looming. Above all they need a leader of the type of the departed captain Colin Hendry, who is being missed far more than could have been imagined.

شكرا من الارجل

Football

Premiership: Leicester City 1 Arsenal 1

Heskey deal up in smoke for Wenger

Jon Brodwin

MOST managers would be delighted to hear that the striker they regard as crucial to their club's success had signed a new contract. Not Arsène Wenger, though, on Saturday it was easy to understand why. Arsenal's strikers look at the moment as likely to score as Bill Clinton with a hot of Havana. Emile Heskey, on the other hand, is smoking. But his decision on Thursday to commit himself to Leicester until the summer of 2000 has forced the Arsenal manager to turn his covetous glances elsewhere.

"We will still be buying a striker but unfortunately Leicester do not want to sell Heskey, so we will have to go somewhere else," said Wenger, his appetite clearly not sated by the purchase of Sweden's attacking midfielder Fredrik Ljungberg on Friday.

"I'm impressed by Heskey. Today he did very well offensively and tried like crazy, too much for me."

The 20-year-old's powerful performance and outstanding individual goal were certainly impressive. But short of buying a combine harvester with a Ferrari engine, Wenger is unlikely to find anything capable of a similar role.

All of which leaves him with a twin problem as he looks to Wednesday's Champions League opener in Lens and beyond, including Sunday's home game against Manchester United.

Dennis Bergkamp, Nicolas

Match stats

	Leicester	Arsenal
Possession	48%	52%
Attempts on target	3	6
Attempts off target	4	3
Goals	1	1
Fouls	14	15
Offsides	3	3
Bookings	2	3
Sendings-off	0	0

Aston Villa 2 Wimbledon 0

Open-house Villa hit the heights

Peter White

ACCTIONS speak louder than words so it is little wonder that Aston Villa find themselves sitting on top of the table. The players have had to produce superhuman efforts to perform better on the pitch than their manager John Gregory talks off it.

Gregory, who has been a breath of fresh air in the Premiership with his open, honest style, even revealed after this win that he has been accused by other managers of being too open.

"So what? I think my players and I have a duty to keep our supporters informed. I am simply trying to give value for money."

"Fans love to feel part of a club, and they are the most important part of it. Someone else's name might be on the title deeds at Manchester United but the supporters still own that club."

"If they stop coming to games then the football is finished. They also want to see players giving their best. If a punter pays £500 for a season ticket and knows every player is running his legs off all season, then that fan will almost certainly go out and buy another next year."

Gregory even invited fans to the press conference last week to announce the £6.75 million signing of Paul Merson. He plans to extend the hospitality fur-

ther by urging the Villa faithful to turn up and watch training sessions.

"I want to see them come flooding in," he said. "When players have an audience, even in training, I get a fantastic reaction from them. They increase the tempo and that has been carried on to the pitch. That is probably why we are top of the table."

Wimbledon's unbeaten sequence was ended by goals from Merson and Ian Taylor, despite the hosts missing two penalties. Alan Thompson shot wide after 20 minutes, and just before the interval Merson's effort was parried by Neil Sullivan but the new recruit steered in the rebound.

Carl Leaburn's challenge on Ugo Ehiogu, which resulted in the second penalty, was prompted by referee David Biley to wave the red card at the Wimbledon player. But the dismissal brought an angry response from the visiting manager Joe Kinnear.

Kinnear had swapped his referee's shirt for a Villa training sweater early in the game to avoid a clash with Wimbledon's dark blue strip. "The way the referee officiated, he must have felt more comfortable in the Villa top," said Kinnear, who also felt the award of that second penalty was unwarranted. Now he must wait to see whether his words bring FA action in the form of a disreputable charge.

Anelka and Christopher Wreh have yet to score and the players are losing patience with an inability to match last season's brilliance. Patrick Vieira was also saved the embarrassment of becoming the third Arsenal player to be sent off in as many matches when he was substituted after a booking for a wild challenge. Perhaps Ian Wright has taken the rage counsellor with him.

"I was worried about the red card," Wenger said. "I think he was annoyed by the fact that we were 1-0 down and maybe he couldn't see how we were going to score."

Few could. Although Bergkamp and Marc Overmars forced Kasey Keller into two sharp saves, Arsenal have created little before Stephen Hughes scored their first goal for more than six hours in the last minute from 35 yards.

That maintained their unbeaten run but, like Bergkamp, they do not look ready to take flight. The Dutchman is still some way short of his best and although he can travel to Lens by train, the team's phobia may run deeper.

"It became nearly an obsession and a psychological problem not to score," said Wenger, who hinted at an early change of priority by resting Tony Adams and Anelka for the Lens game. "When we needed to take responsibility to shoot we didn't do it."

Leicester suffered no such problems. Muzzy Izet had already headed against a post when Heskey burst inside Steve Bould and scored with a fierce shot from 25 yards.

"That's probably the best goal he's scored," said Izet. "The fact that he's signed a new contract shows the club's going places. There's a lot of ambition here and we feel we can achieve it by staying."

"Emile's got so much pace and ability, and to think he's only 20 is frightening. When he turns and runs at people they don't like it." When he decides to sign new contracts Wenger is not best pleased either.



Taken for a ride... Ronny Johnsen gives Roy Keane a lift after scoring Manchester United's second goal as their team-mates rush to join the celebrations

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Manchester United 2 Coventry City 0

Yorke's strike keeps Sky in the shade

Mark Redding sees no sign of rebellion at Old Trafford as United's bandwagon rolls on

THE whiff of rebellion had blown away, the phoney war was undetectable. If there was any opposition to the BSkyB takeover of Manchester United, it was being kept well hidden at Old Trafford on Saturday.

True, there was a bedraggled man outside the stadium holding a sign saying "Money is a root of all evil". But it was difficult to tell whether he was attempting to make a point about Rupert Murdoch or was there merely in a religious capacity on behalf of the greatest sky pilot of all.

The apathy was contagious and even the Manchester Eve-

ning News, normally the hottest crucible for Red Devil debate, promised tamely in its sporting pink that the takeover would mean "business as usual", though it did describe the reaction to the £623 million deal as "one of shock, horror and disgust" in a paragraph tucked away at the bottom of an inside page.

The depressing truth is that, so long as United are winning, no one on the terrace cares what deals are being struck on what is effectively their behalf.

In other words, the chairman Martin Edwards might be coldly selling the soul of the club who, since the Mu-

nich air disaster, have more than any other encapsulated the English mix of romance and sentimentality that helps give the game its unique character. But if you have come in on a Norwegian charter flight from Tromsø, bent on blowing your hard-earned kroner in the Man United megastore, you are not going to allow a reserve of righteous anger to get in the way of some conspicuous consumption.

As ever in football, the bottom line is what happens on the field, and United's surge up the table is the only thing currently occupying the Stretford End.

Coventry were swatted aside like a troublesome gadfly as the £12.6 million striker Dwight Yorke opened the scoring in the 21st minute, his

third goal in two games, and then had a hand in Ronny Johnsen's second just after half-time. After that it was game over as United conserved their energy for the visit of Barcelona in the Champions League on Wednesday.

United will hope their game will get a bit more solidly now that Yorke is linking up their attacks with a certainty that was beyond Andy Cole. With games to follow against Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool and Bayern Munich, September could make or break the newlook Reds. Who needs a Super League?

Meanwhile, the fight off the pitch (such as it is) continues. The Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association has called a meeting at the Bridgewater Hall tomorrow

night to discuss how to combat the proposed sale of the club to Sky, and the newspapers yesterday were full of possible rival bids for the Red Devil brand.

The Sunday Times had the English National Investment Company (Enic), which owns a slice of Rangers, taking an interest. The Sunday Telegraph announced a £700 million move for United by Salomon Smith Barney, the Amer-

ican investment bank formerly known as Salomon Brothers, although the bank said yesterday only that it was conducting talks on behalf of an unnamed client.

Edwards also kept the pot boiling when asked by Radio 5 Live whether Sky might yet be gazzumped on the deal. "There is that possibility," he admitted. "You are honour bound to listen to a bid. You are advised by your merchant bankers and they will tell you whether to discuss a deal or not."

Whatever the outcome, expect the opposition to be muted. Should results go against United for any sort of lengthy period, the Theatre of Dreams may turn into the theatre of hate. But don't go putting any money on it.

Match stats

	ManU	Coventry
Possession	58%	44%
Attempts on target	5	2
Attempts off target	8	5
Goals	2	0
Fouls	16	10
Offsides	2	9
Bookings	1	1
Sendings-off	0	0

Charlton Athletic 1 Derby County 2

Just like old times, even down to the scoreline

David Lacey

FOR nostalgia buffs Saturday offered a chance to stay in and catch Rita Hayworth singing, or rather miming, Long Ago and Far Away on Channel 4. Those like Michael Grade, however, preferred to enjoy a similar experience by watching Charlton play Derby at The Valley in a top-level match for the first time in 46 years.

Ah, memories. When Charlton beat Derby 3-1 on a September Saturday in 1952 the only Rupert to strike a chord in the national consciousness was a bear, not a bull. That was the season Derby went down and kept going. Charlton were relegated five years later.

Visually everything has changed at The Valley since Charlton began their seven years of nomadism in 1986. Rows of neat seats have replaced those rolling terraced hills but the new West stand provides as lofty a perch as once did the mountain opposite, and the feeling of majesty is as strong as ever.

Derby too showed a fine sense of tradition by winning 2-1. They had won six out of 10 visits to The Valley in the old First Division and now they beat Alan Curbishley's newly promoted side in a manner which sent chills up and down Charlton's spine.

Three days earlier Charlton's brief unbeaten Premiership run had ended with a 4-1 defeat at Old Trafford. No cause for alarm there: anyone can lose to Manchester United, and Charlton did score first.

Derby, however, represent that middle-order mainstream which teams fresh out of the Nationwide League need to beat in order to join. This may be only their third season in the Premiership but the gap in efficiency and know-how between Jim Smith's multinationals and

the almost entirely British opposition was a fair measure of how much Curbishley's players need to learn, and quickly.

The victory was unimpressive but solid, based on tight defending, the occasional quick break and a control of the game in midfield which Charlton struggled vainly to overcome. Even during their passive periods Derby played the match at a tempo to which their rivals seldom aspired.

Lennie Lawrence, who kept Charlton in the old First Division for the last four seasons of the Eighties, said that the principal difference for anyone playing in the higher section was that mistakes in either penalty area were

felt the goal echoed the poor defending which had undone his team at Old Trafford.

Derby's second, scored on the hour, was an inspired Francesco Balano free-kick which also owed something to the poor positioning of Sasa Lilic, Charlton's Macedonian goalkeeper, behind the defensive wall. Almost as much blame, however, attached to Paul Mortimer, a second-half substitute, for being caught in possession near halfway and allowing Derby to break away to win the free-kick.

Clive Mendonca scored 23 of Charlton's 80 goals in the Nationwide last season and his hat-trick at Wembley helped them to the memorable 4-4 draw with Sunderland in the final of the First Division play-offs before promotion was secured on penalties. Mendonca also netted three of the five Charlton goals in Saturday's match.

Derby he came up against Igor Stimac who, having helped to stifle Jürgen Klinsmann and Oliver Bierhoff in the World Cup finals when Croatia knocked out Germany, was never going to be impressed by mere statistics.

Mendonca found himself clear of Stimac only once, early in the second half when Mortimer's pass left him with only Russell Hoult to beat. But Hoult, whose form in Derby's goal is delaying the return of Mart Poom, pushed the shot wide and that proved to be Charlton's best scoring opportunity until the penultimate minute.

Then Roy Delap seemed to have ended an ambitious dribble by Mortimer with a well-timed challenge from behind which took the ball rather than the man. But the Birmingham referee Mike Reed still gave a penalty, from which Mendonca briefly revived Charlton's hopes.

"Best tackle of the afternoon" was Smith's dry comment on the decision, and certainly Derby could have been spared a nervous finish by the warbling Reed. Curbishley insisted Charlton had played well overall and were worth a draw but this sounded suspiciously like a whistle in the dark.

Match stats

	Charlton	Derby
Possession	55%	45%
Attempts on target	5	3
Attempts off target	7	8
Goals	1	2
Fouls	19	26
Offsides	5	7
Bookings	2	5
Sendings-off	0	0

Cheltenham 2 Nottingham Forest 1

Juve off to flier in title defence

Martin Thorpe

WHILE builders work on the hotel and restaurant complex at Stamford Bridge and the West Stand awaits a second tier and roof, Chelsea's attempt to construct a team capable of winning the title remains some way from the toppling-off ceremony.

That old failing, defensive uncertainty, continues to undermine Chelsea's attempts to add some bromide to the sexy football. Grinding consistency wins the championship, but on Saturday's evidence Chelsea's cavalier instincts will always sabotage such an unimaginative aim.

Perhaps that is being too churlish. After all, Chelsea did pick up their first Premiership win of the campaign, doubling their total goals tally for the season in one game, witnessed the rebirth of Zola's intoxicating skills and, but for a string of saves from Dave Beasant, would have won at a canter.

The team's best foot is definitely forward. But the pressure which a depleted Forest exerted in the last 20 minutes once again exposed Chelsea's vulnerability to life on the back foot. The midfield gave away possession all over the place while the back line was merely all over the place.

Had Forest played with two strikers from the start instead of for only the last half-hour they would surely have posed even more of a threat.

Of course, for a surging side such as Chelsea attack can be the best form of defence—but only if they score. The excellent Beasant clearly enjoyed his role as Chelsea old boy, saving brilliantly three times from Zola, twice from Pierluigi Casiraghi and once from Frank Leboeuf.

His heroics left Chelsea, who will welcome back Dennis Wise after suspension for the next match, relying on defensive errors for their winning goals.

After only 26 seconds Craig Armstrong missed Zola's cross and Alan Rogers allowed himself to be hustled off the ball by Casiraghi, who

set up Zola for a glorious curling finish. Chelsea extended their lead 10 minutes before the interval when Beasant saved a header from the unmarked Celestine Babayaro but Gustavo Poyet mopped up the rebound.

Forest's goal came when Ed de Gea precipitously raced out of his area to clear Nigel Quashie's through-pass but was beaten to the ball by Jean-Claude Darcheville. An empty net beckoned.

De Gea made amends by saving a header from Beasant's head from the unmarked Celestine Babayaro but Gustavo Poyet mopped up the rebound.

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Beasant... string of saves

Beasant... string of saves

Beasant... string of saves

Beasant... string of saves

Beasant... string of saves

Beasant... string of saves

Beasant... string of saves

Beasant... string of saves

Beasant... string of saves

Beasant... string of saves

Europe

Scotland

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F A	Pts
Rangers	5	3	1	1	10	6
Celtic	5	2	2	1	11	6
Kilmarnock	5	2	2	1	9	6
Aberdeen	5	2	2	1	7	6
Sheff Wed	5	2	2	1	7	6
St Johnstone	5	1	2	2	2	6
Dunfermline	5	1	1	3	3	6
Partick Thistle	5	0	2	3	1	6
Greenock Morton	5	0	2	3	1	6
Stirling Albion	5	0	2	3	1	6
Forfar Athletic	5	0	2	3	1	6
Perth Rangers	5	0	2	3	1	6

Aberdeen - (1) Motherwell - (1)					
Last 7					
Aberdeen: Laidlaw, Gray, Whyte, Inghis, Smith, James, Stewart (Collier), Rodde, Cox (Kilpatrick), D. Graham (Wynne), D. Brown, Sloan, Smith, McEwen,					

[illegible]

2,500, Mex & Kanay (Perth)

SPAIN																							
Alfayocan, 1970	Age	191																					
1956/60, 1964	M. M. Clark (Edinburgh)																						
Subsequent																							
Alfonso Madrid	2	Salamanca	0																				
Valladolid	1	Real Madrid	0																				
Atletico Bilbao	0	Racing Santander	0																				
Barcelona	1	Espanol	0																				
Villarreal	1	Getxo	0																				
Deportivo Coruna	2	Real Sociedad	2																				
Real Betis	1	Real Sociedad	2																				
Valencia	1	Real Zaragoza	2																				
PORTUGAL																							
Subsequent																							
Salgueiros	3	Vitoria Guimaraes	2																				
Benfica	3	Boavista	0																				
Beira Mar	1																						
References																							
Statistics table																							
Games																							
W	D	L	F	A	P	F	A	P															
W	5	1	8	16	5	18																	
D	1	1	7	4	18																		
L	3	2	1	8	11																		
F	6	2	2	14	8																		
A	6	2	2	6	8																		
P	6	2	2	7	6																		
F	6	2	2	8	11																		
A	6	2	2	13	11																		
P	1	1	2	8	9																		
F	6	1	1	4	10																		
A	6	2	4	4	6																		
Seasons																							
1956-57	193	Glyde																					
1957-58	13	Stanley																					
1959-60	19	1960-61																					
1961-62	19	1962-63	1963																				
1963-64	1964	1965-66	1966																				
1966-67	1967	1968-69	1969																				
1969-70	1970	1971-72	1972																				
1972-73	1973	1974-75	1975																				
1975-76	1976	1977-78	1978																				
1978-79	1979	1980-81	1981																				
1981-82	1982	1983-84	1984																				
1984-85	1985	1986-87	1987																				
1987-88	1988	1989-90	1990																				
1990-91	1991	1992-93	1993																				
1993-94	1994	1995-96	1996																				

Shawin 46
McLain 47
Mallon 48

[illegible]

1970-1971

Third Division

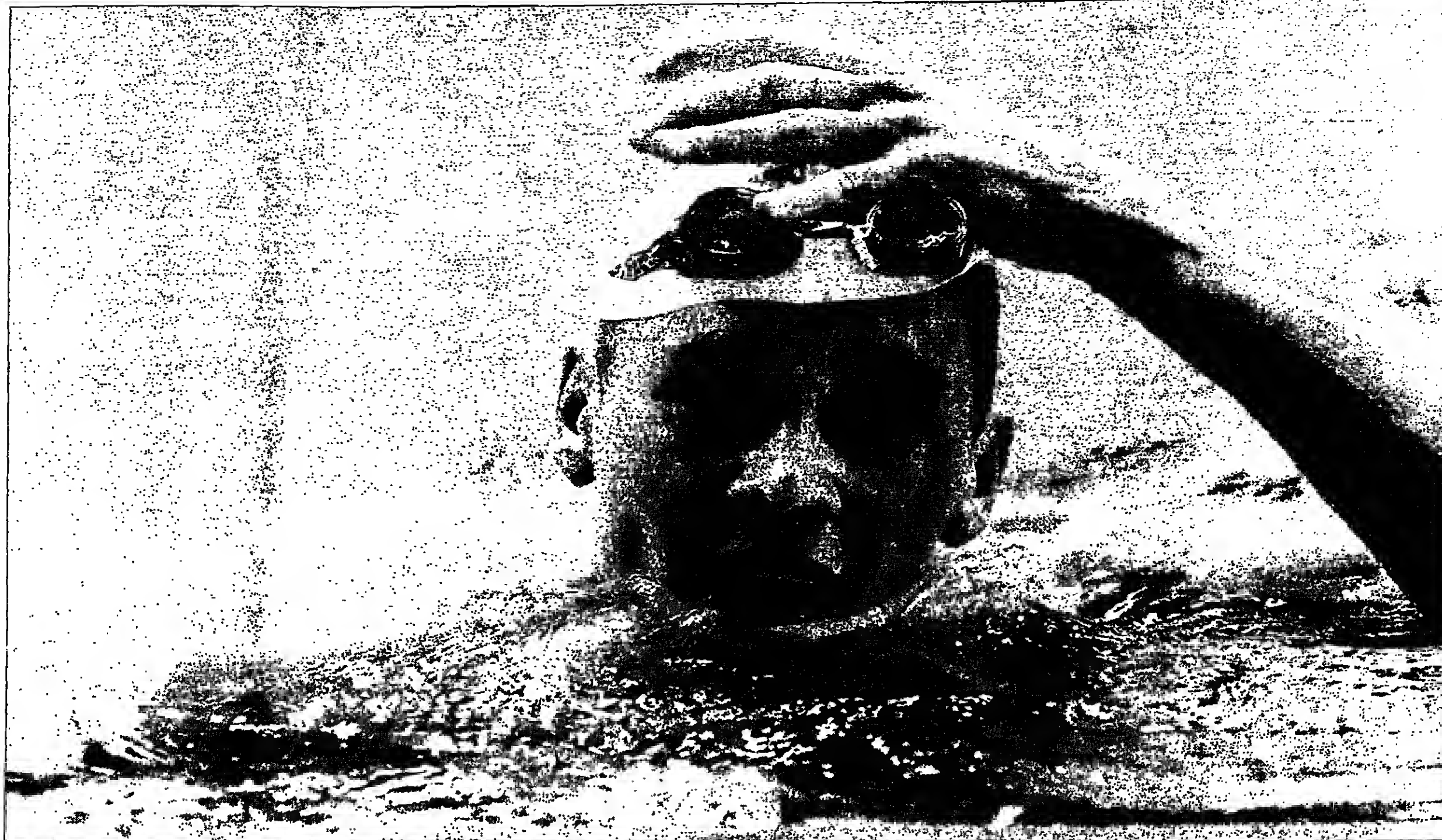
Marco Gabbianini equalised for the Quakers with a close-range header. The Canadian International defender Jason Voss then wrapped up the wins in the second half.

Scunthorpe moved into second place by taking a point on Sunday thanks to the substitute Darryl Sturge's 89th-minute header. The Iron had not scored the opening goal when Jamie Forester put them ahead after eight minutes. In between times Robbie Slater, from the spot, and Alex Morrison had put Scunthorpe on top.

After being humbled 5-1 by Peterborough at Underhill on Thursday evening, Barnet ended out a thrashing of their own. They defeated Hull despite going behind to Richard Peacock's long-range kick, with the substitute Matt McGleish scoring twice

DOPE (mM)	Plasma Membrane Fraction (%)
0.0	10
0.1	75
0.2	85
0.3	80
0.4	78
0.5	76
0.6	75
0.7	74
0.8	73
0.9	72
1.0	71

Commonwealth Games



David Hopps in Kuala Lumpur on controversy in the pool, and a sport that has bowled over the locals

Hickman's false dawn

Swimming

MENTION to anybody in English swimming the name of James Hickman and the response is almost universal. "James? You'll never stop him talking. He's unquenchable. No-one quite knows what goes on inside his head."

That impression changed forever last night in the Bukit Jalil aquatic centre. Now somebody does claim to be Hickman's personal mind-reader. His name is Tan Eng Chai of Singapore, and he cost Hickman the possibility of a Commonwealth gold.

Tan Eng Chai, the referee for the second night of finals,

disqualified Hickman for a false start in the men's 100m butterfly, a punishment that a referee can only impose if he concludes that the false start was deliberate.

It is a judgment that, barring outrageous gamesmanship, relies largely on intuition. On this evidence, it would be foolish to breathe out of place in Singapore if Tan Eng Chai were ever to become a High Court judge.

Within seconds of a dive that at worst was impulsive, Hickman was touched on the shoulder by a yellow-jacketed official and informed that he would not be taking part in the re-run. As the crowd boomed and whistled and Geoff Huegill, with an empty lane alongside him, took the gold

in a hollow Australian 1-3-3, Hickman's City of Leeds coach, Terry Denison, hurried down to the poolside with a few reassuring words.

It would have been understandable if Hickman had been feeling somewhat bewildered, for his luck in major championships has been non-existent. At the last European Championships in Seville, he contracted food poisoning and spent two days on a drip; and shortly before the World Championships in Perth in January he split with his coach, and finished seventh.

But his composure and his ability to maintain concentrations were admirable and were rewarded only 45 minutes later with the silver medal in the 400m individual

medley, as he touched three-tenths of a second behind Australia's Trent Steed, setting a new British record of 4:29.17 in the process. Gold on Wednesday in his strongest event, the 200m butterfly, can provide the finest consolation.

"I was ready to go, I heard something click behind me and I was gone," Hickman said. "Something just happened inside me. I certainly wasn't trying to shake things up."

"It was disappointing at the time and I'm sure I'll get angry later, but I had another race so I couldn't dwell on it. At least I have a silver in the medley and I paced that race a lot better than when I'm at home."

Asked if he thought it was a



stupid rule that seeks to guess what is in a sportsman's mind, Hickman replied, "For sure."

It was an unstoppable night for Australia in the pool. They took all five golds, rousing rounds off with a world record in the men's 200m freestyle relay. All part of the plan to float supreme in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

That the relay quartet can go faster, too, is undeniable. Ian Thorpe, the phenomenal 16-year-old with size-16 feet capable of thrashing like motorised flippers, had missed the world record by one-hundredth of a second in taking gold in the 200m freestyle on Saturday night. Last night he swam nearly eight-tenths of a second slower.

Hickman's was not the only

doughty English performance. Since her Commonwealth gold in the 100m freestyle four years ago, Karen Pickering's career had gradually slipped into decline, and her silver over 200m last night was a pleasingly unexpected ambush from an outside lane.

Her preparations over the previous 48 hours had not been promising - mild food poisoning, followed by a dreadful swim over 100m in which Pickering was overshadowed by her team-mate, Susan Rolph. Rolph, coached out of Newcastle by Ian Oliver, brought England its first gold in the pool.

"I've been feeling queasy and did not eat before my 100m swim," Pickering said,

That sinking feeling... James Hickman can't believe his disqualification in the 100m butterfly, while (left) Karen Pickering is delighted at winning silver for England in the 100m freestyle

DAVID JONES, MIKE EDEYTON

"and I couldn't stop yawning this morning on the physio's bed. I just wanted to get the beat swim out of the way."

"But I rang my boyfriend [a Canadian footballer] and he told me to stop wallowing and gave me a kick up the backside. Maybe I needed a bit of sympathy, but I wasn't going to get any there. At times like this, it's just a case of saying, 'It was crap, move on, get on with it.' And so she did."

Mother and daughter go shopping but can't quite strike it lucky

Ten-pin bowling

PAULINE BUCK and Gemma Burden looked to the casual observer like any mother and daughter passing a Sunday morning down at the local bowling centre - only rather than celebrate afterwards with a chocolate milkshake, they had the satisfaction instead of a Commonwealth bronze.

Not everyone will look upon their achievement with good grace. If a recreational pursuit like ten-pin bowling can make its Games debut in Kuala Lumpur, then stand by in Manchester four years

from now for a special Commonwealth medal edition of Dale Winton's Supermarket Sweep.

The Malaysians take an entirely contradictory view. Here, ten-pin bowling rivals badminton as a national passion, and their leading female bowler, Zulkipli Shalin, looks down from advertising hoardings throughout the capital. The Sunway Pyramid Bowl, housed in an eight-storey shopping mall and packed with only 2,000 temporary seats, could have been been filled many times over.

For Pauline Buck, a silver-haired, 42-year-old housewife from Surbiton, and Gemma Burden, 20, a part-time sales

assistant from Weston-super-Mare, Kuala Lumpur represented a chance to be noticed.

Even after she became world champion in 1993, Buck still roamed the local shops unrecognised. "I used to hear people talking about the likes of Sally Gunnell," she said. "I still had my privacy I suppose, but I felt a twinge of jealousy." That attention took time to arrive. Buck and Burden had been largely overlooked in the build-up to the women's doubles as Malaysia and Australia sniped at each other from the sidelines, and the competition followed much the same course. England plugging away in third place while Australia, taking the

women's game to the heights, wrecked Malaysian hopes and forced the hosts to wait until the men's event for their first gold of the Games.

Sporting talent reveals itself in many ways - and it has to be said that Buck and Burden hardly took the athletic sort. What they do possess is dedication, and an ability to reproduce a demanding repetitive skill under pressure. Partnering each other for only the second time, they treated their successful ball with a high-five, which now can safely be assumed to have taken over the world.

Buck has been on a Commonwealth Games diet, installed a gym in her garage, and studied the effects of different wax on the behaviour of her bowling balls. But whereas Shalin delivered her balls with grace, to raucous Malaysian cheers, England's stoutest slappers bled down the lane as if she just wanted to get rid of it, thank-you very much. After all these years, that's hardly surprising.

Buck first watched her parents bowl in local leagues more than three decades ago, when unemployed pin-boys were still ruling the advent of



Alley gal... Australia's Maxine Noble, who with Cara Honeychurch won gold. PHOTOLIA/SHAW

automatic pin-spotters. But six weeks ago she finally achieved her first maximum 300, in an international competition in Northern Ireland.

A more professional backdrop, including advice from an England psychologist, had played its part. "I've two kids of 11 and 13 and not much time for fitness training," she

said. "He helped me clear away a few little niggles that I was getting on a bit."

Burden, wary of Malaysian food, plans to exist throughout the Games on the Sunday bowler's staple of beefburger and chips. Both bowlers were drained afterwards, not just by the tension, but by the physical demands of Malaysian

lanes, which tend to dry out quicker because of the high humidity levels and therefore demand greater physical exertion.

There are only so many ways to describe a "strike" - and, at this level, all 10 pins crash with monotonous regularity - but the Australian TV commentators, bawling

their excitement at another gold medal, ran through the entire repertoire.

When it came to "putting an 'X' on the card," "flushing the pocket," "striking time" or "putting 10 in a pit", the Aussie pairing of Cara Honeychurch and Maxine Noble had no peers. "That's a lovely sight. Oz-tray-ay," was another commonly-used phrase, although that one doesn't travel quite as well.

Honeychurch and Noble might have been cloned for the task. Both stand only 5ft 4ins tall, both are early-20s, bespectacled, pony-tailed and awesomely efficient; imaginary sisters to match England's mother-and-daughter pairing. "I do feel like I'm adopted," admitted Burden. Buck is coached by her husband, Geoff, and the team manager is her brother-in-law, Chris.

After the bronze had been secured, there was time for a spot of shopping. Malaysia's economic crisis has made them as obsessed with off-loading huge stocks of clothing in the next week as they are with winning medals. There is, though, a certain futility in trying to sell 26-inch waist trousers to the average Commonwealth athlete.



Way back when

Frank Keating recalls football's first dip into the pools - and all in the name of Harry's aunt

Big spender... notorious Vivian Nicholson, husband Keith, and Bruce Forsyth check out her 1961 chequre. PHOTOGRAPH: HULTON GETTY

BEFORE

sky warranted a capital letter and long before Rupert Murdoch's father had made even his first million in Australia, Manchester United's Old Trafford was the stage for some equally ambitious speculators looking to make a killing. Seventy-five years ago this week, before United's first home match of the 1923-24 Football League season, two brothers and a friend "leathered" the turnstile queues with a "coupon" inviting a forecast of the results of fixtures due to be held the following Saturday. The filled-in coupon - with a

postal order "stake" - had to be returned by post by the following Wednesday.

The three men involved distributed just over 4,000 coupons that day. Only 35 were returned and the bets amounted to £4.7s.6d. The winner with the nearest correct forecast was paid a prize of £2.12s - and Football pools, as we know them, were born.

Harry Askham and John Moores worked as telegraphists in Manchester and John's brother, Cecil, was a bank clerk. They continued distributing coupons at local League grounds throughout that

season. Interest proved limited, though, and Askham pulled out, but not before leaving the two brothers with the name of their fledgling business.

Prudently not using their own names for the moonlighting enterprise, in fear of losing their day jobs, they had headed their coupons with the name "Littlewood's Pool". Littlewood being the name of the favourite aunt who had brought up the young Askham.

Within two seasons, however, the brothers Moores had given up their day jobs. By 1928, operating now from Liverpool, Littlewood's total

pool each week passed £10,000. Within 10 years it would reach £400,000, by which time they had no end of rivals, particularly smart businessmen from their own city, such as Vernon Sangster - of Vernon's and David Cope, whose firm had bought from a J Jervis

Bernard a sophisticated, football-adapted version of the French horse racing lottery, the Paris-Mutuel Totalisator.

The pools' bonanza of the mid-Thirties had begun with the 1934 Act of Parliament, which put no restriction on fixed-odds betting. This

infuriated the Football League even more than the anti-betting lobby, and during the 1935-36 season the League embarked on a system whereby fixtures were arranged only from week to week, so that the pools' promoters could not prepare their coupons in time for distribution.

But the promoters now had moles everywhere, and in the Encyclopedia of Association Football (Robert Hale, 1958) the nicely named author Maurice Goleworthy describes the League's immediate and embarrassing climbdown: "The system was abandoned."

سكيا من الاجل

Hockey

Hope springs from victory

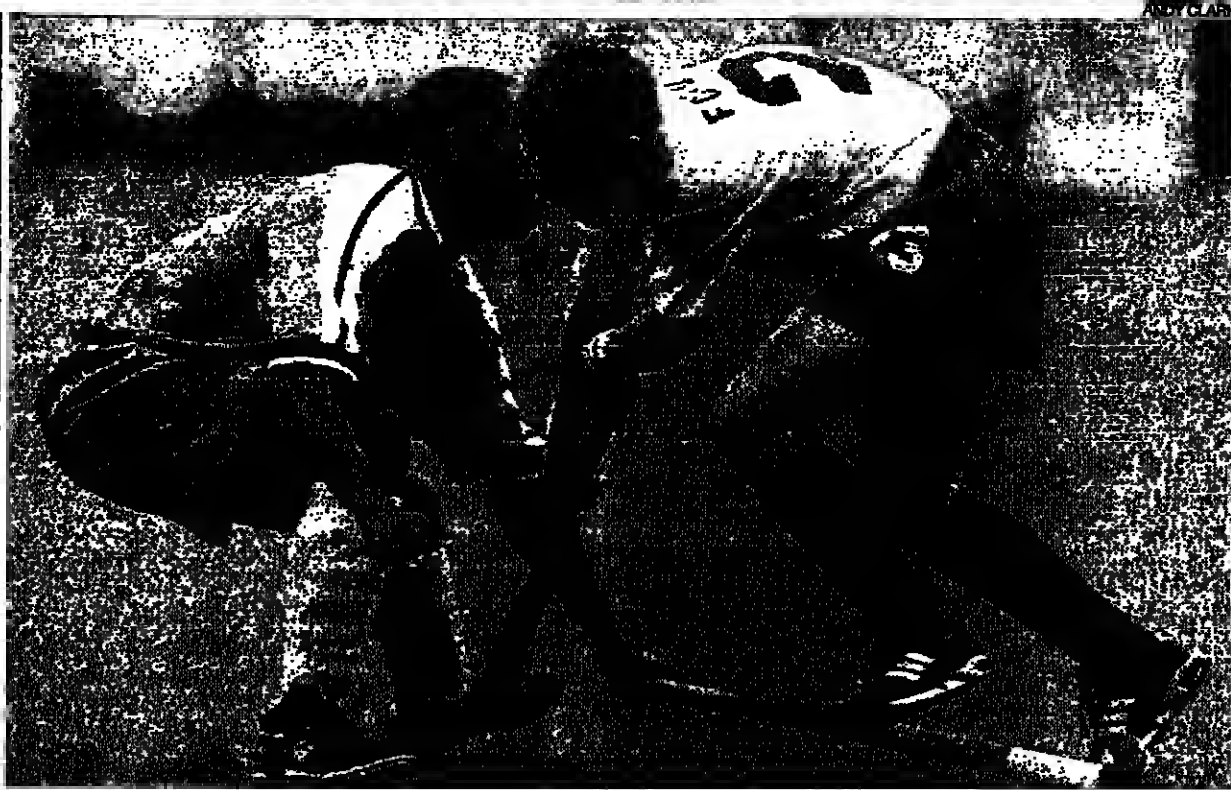
Patrick Rowley

HOCKEY came to life last night when a capacity crowd cheered the host nation to a rare draw with Pakistan. The result breathed new life for England too, keeping alive their bid for the medal play-offs.

The England men had tasted the same atmosphere, playing immediately before the Malaysia/Kenya clash in front of a huge pro-Kenya crowd. It was a test of character for the English and they came through it splendidly, winning 3-1 to stay in contention for the semi-finals.

Ben Sharpe, Cannock's flying winger, needed stitches to a cut mouth during the first half but came back after the break and, within a minute, put England ahead. It was not before time for Barry Dancer's team, who had dominated a goalless first half but wasted a 10-2 corner advantage.

When Russell Garcia finally put away a corner for England — they had won 16 without success until then — victory looked



Collision course... Guy Fordham (right) forces on for England against Kenya

Kenya pulled one back through Osech, but Sharpe almost immediately set up James Wallis who scored with a brilliant reverse stick shot.

England's women made hard work of beating Namibia 5-0 yesterday, but more significantly had the better of a 1-1 draw with South Africa on Saturday. They share joint leadership of the group with the South Africans and are well placed to make the semi-finals.

Tina Cullen scored a late equaliser on Saturday, while England's goals against Namibia were shared by six players — Denise Marston-Smith (two penalties), Mel Clewlow (two corners), Kirsty Bowden (her first international goal), Jane Sissons (her 54th), Cullen and Jane Smith.



Let's twist again... Lisa Mason helps England to a gymnastics team silver

Gymnastics

Lottery gold for Smethurst

Steven Downes

IT'S BEEN a strange month for John Smethurst. Four weeks ago he was told to leave the national gymnastics centre at Lillleshall because he was not good enough; by yesterday afternoon he was showing off a Commonwealth Games gold medal.

Only a cruel injury to the English champion, Kevin Atherton, three weeks ago saw Smethurst drafted into the men's team as a late substitute and, not surprisingly, he looked a little overconfident.

"It's been a bit of a whirlwind," Smethurst said. "Not that being a Commonwealth Games champion will guarantee that the 21-year-old from Manchester will be able to resume full-time training when he returns to England."

Smethurst was a victim of cutbacks in Lottery funding for his sport, as a squad of 10 was pared down to five.

"But this gold medal shows full-time training works," Lee McDermott, one of Smethurst's team-mates who will be returning to Lillleshall, said. "The men's team victory was

a first for the English and was achieved despite a strong challenge from an Australian quintet which included two Russians who were deemed "imports" by the England captain, the feisty Lancastrian Craig Heap.

The loss of Kevin Atherton certainly added determination to the English cause. A dislocated knee in a competition in Denmark last month ruled him out, so denying him the chance of becoming part of the first set of twins ever to represent England at the Commonwealth Games.

It also damaged England's prospects. "Obviously, when one of the better team members has to be left behind, it makes things very hard," said Heap. "But the Aussies thought they had it won before they started."

In Kevin's absence, his brother, Andrew, led the way for England, putting in a best all-round performance in the competition, scoring a total of 54.650pts. It could mean another gold for Atherton in the all-round event today, and promises further rewards in the various apparatus events on Wednesday.

Those medals, no doubt, will be regarded as Andrew's own. Saturday's gold was for Kevin: "We all wished he was here," his twin said. "But perhaps by winning without him, we've shown what a good squad we've got."

Don't bother phoning the club unless you want a duvet cover

FAIR GAME

Julie Welch

WHEN you have just spent £253 million on a football club it may come as a bit of a disappointment to find that you cannot actually get through on the telephone.

When you call, say, Manchester United these days you are answered by a recorded voice announcing, "Manchester United, so you immediately think you have dialled incorrectly into a poncey building develop-

ment and someone will be charged on your credit card for a penthouse apartment overlooking the river, when all you wanted was two seats at the Scoreboard End for Saturday.

The message is followed by an extensive choice of options, all of which involve listening to more of the same and none of which answer your requirement exactly, that is to be put in touch with a human being in order to discuss a football-related issue.

Increasingly, football clubs have nothing to do with football, now that they have expanded into merchandising, television stations, real estate and global domination.

In fact, there is absolutely no point in phoning the ground at all, unless you want information on their latest range of car coats or duvet covers.

So you are not much better off if, finally, you manage to get through to a human being. Occasionally, remains of prehistoric women are discovered in off-the-beaten-track places like Greenland, preserved perfectly in the permafrost.

for thousands of years. Many of these finds are picked in formalin and put on display in museums, to which parties of school-children are dragged to marvel at their frozen implacability; others are Christened Michelle and given switchboard jobs at football grounds.

Michelle exists solely to tell you that the manager is not available and to suggest you send a fax, which they will personally undertake to leave on the manager's desk. This guarantees that the manager will never see it, as nowadays he only visits the ground to be sacked by a chairman, who never goes there either unless he wants to sack the manager.

This is why any manager who has just been fired is escorted to his office to clear his desk. It is not a bullying tactic designed to reinforce his loss of status, but simple pragmatism: he needs someone to show him where his office is, otherwise he will be found wandering around the place for months peering into the Directors' Lounge or the cupboard where they dumped those ancient FA Cup pennants. Go clearing his desk he will sweep your fax into a binbag along with hundreds of others from people who never got to speak to him either.

Once clubs could be found in convenient mid-town locations, with a modest office at the front and a forecourt full of awestruck kids hunking off school to catch a glimpse of their heroes. The person in charge was usually a motherly woman who sat knitting in between answering the phone, making sure the proceeds of the auction of the signed match ball went to the intended charity and listening to apprentices' problems when they grew homesick.

You will find that training grounds are friendly places, with kids hanging around with their autograph books and an office at the front run by a motherly woman doing her knitting.

buy a duvet cover, or to cut the grass in readiness for the occasional match. Soon even the groundsman will not have to bother, because matches will cease to be played there. Now that Arsenal are opting to stage their European fixtures at Wembley, other clubs will soon realise that there is nothing to stop them playing anywhere in the world. And since they have so many Italians on their books, it would help build up the fan base if they took themselves off to Milan for a while.

The one piece of good news is that with clubs so full of foreigners and playing at exotic locations around the globe, the whole notion of international football will become superfluous, thus ensuring that no one will record in England World Cup song again. The bad news is that most fans will lose all interest in their clubs after realising that you have to be a mover to support a club that whose main agenda is to log duvet covers to the United States and satellite dishes to China.

Eventually, in order to bring the fans back, some clubs will come up with the idea of giving clubs a local identity by building stadiums in the middle of our towns and cities, filling the side with young players who have grown up in the area, and forming a team from provincial butchers and solicitors who will leap out of their seats when a goal is scored.

Meantime, if you have just bought a club and want to speak to the manager, the best place to find him is at the training ground. Most operate there these days and will be really pleased to hear from you, because, thanks to Michelle, they do not see a soul from one day to the next.

You will find that training grounds are friendly places, with kids hanging around with their autograph books and an office at the front run by a motherly woman doing her knitting.

Round-up

England fire a double shot

ENGLAND struck gold twice in the shooting on Langkawi Island. Nigel Wallace and Chris Hector won the pairs men's air rifle, with Scotland's David Rattray and Robin Law taking the bronze, while Nick Baxter and Michael Gault were victors in the pairs free pistol.

Shirley McIntosh and Susan Bell claimed Scotland's first medal of the Games when they took the bronze in the women's pairs sport rifle prone event. England's Robert Borsley and Ian Peel added a bronze medal to their two earlier golds in the men's pairs trap.

In badminton, England's women are now odds-on for a gold after beating hosts Malaysia 3-2. The men also have an unexpected chance of gold as Malaysia, their likely opponents in today's deciding match, have lost their leading singles player, Ong Ewe Hock through injury.

England's Joanne Goode, whose partnership with Donna Kellogg helped defeat Malaysia, is the favourite for the women's individual and the mixed doubles titles.

In the women's squash tournament, England's third-seeded Joanne has a narrow win over Claire Nitch of South Africa. Jackman came back from 6-8 down in the final



Down for the count... England's Sara Symington receives treatment after crashing in the women's road race

game to win 7-9, 9-1, 9-4, 6-9, 10-8. In the men's event, fifth-seeded Simon Parke of England lost a five-game match to the Welsh No. 2, David Evans.

Canada's former middle-distance runner Lyne Bessette won the women's 92km cycling road race from Susy Pryde of New Zealand, with Australia's Ana Wilson taking the bronze medal after appearing to have the gold medal sewn up until her foot slipped off the pedal just yards from the finish.

The wet and windy conditions claimed one victim when England's Sara Symington was taken to hospital after a heavy fall, but the Venezuela-born 29-year-old was cleared of any serious damage.

Western Samoa gave England a lesson in the rugby sevens, winning 19-12 to dent Chris Sheasby's men's hopes of qualification for the quarter-finals. With Samoa now almost certain to win the group, England's

hopes lie with qualifying as one of the two best-placed runners-up, depending on a big score against Trinidad and Tobago in their final group match.

Despite the presence of Scott Gibbs and Arwel Thomas, Wales were also on the losing side, going down 45-7 to Canada, and must also hope for a try blitz against the Cayman Islands to keep their slender hopes alive.

In the boxing ring, the Birmingham flyweight James Hegney secured an 18-13 victory over Mozambique's Helio

Antonio and will meet Northern Ireland's Liam Cunningham in the last eight of the 51kg category.

The Ulster champion Cunningham defeated Cardiff's Darren Hayde 9-6. The world champion Tony Alcock, looking for England's first men's singles title since David Bryant took his fourth straight lawn bowls gold 20 years ago, swept past David Marquand of Jersey 25-15 in pool A, and the former world indoor champion John Price of Wales beat Ahmad Sanip of Brunel 25-14.

Results, page 23

CENTRE STAGE

Pete Nichols

The first time Bobby Quinn agreed to run up a mountain in anger, the mist was down and he couldn't see the top. "It was the day before the race and I didn't know what I was letting myself in for," he says.

The next day the mist cleared, and there stood the mountain. Even then, Quinn didn't realise the full extent of the horror until he was halfway up. "Only at that point can you really see the gradient." He came eighth that day in Bertegarten, lungs burning, but the first Briton home in the World Cup event.

Quinn had qualified for the race by running up a hill in Scotland. "I thought, 'ouch, I'll try this', and I won the trial." Already 28 then, he considers that he could well have been a hill champion earlier, except there aren't many hills in Paisley and it was there, on Glasgow's outskirts, that he began running.

Progress was quick and as a 30-year-old, in 1988, he was a member of Scotland's Commonwealth Games 5000 metres squad, training for the Edinburgh event. Quinn didn't make the Games. On May 7 that year — "the date's etched on my memory" — he was out training when he was run over by a motorbike and suffered a compound fracture of the left shin. "I was lucky. The guy I was running with was a medical student and he was able to hold the bone in place until the ambulance came," Quinn says.

The left leg mended, but was now a little shorter than the right. Quinn started running again and steadily — it took six years — recovered the lost ground. In 1992 he finished third in the World Students Cross-country Championships. He was back on the plateau.

In the mainstream of the sport, that is where Quinn has stayed: good enough to earn selection for Scotland in the World Cross-country Championships (in 1995 at Durham) and quick enough over 10,000m on the track to be rated Scottish champion this summer.

That Scottish championship victory could have brought Quinn full circle, could have put him into the Commonwealth Games teams for Kuala Lumpur and could have been some compensation for the Games that were stolen from him, so cruelly, 12 years earlier.

But Quinn, though he ran in Portugal, at the AAA Championships at Bedford and at Meadowbank, could not come close to the 28 minutes 35 seconds qualifying time. Meadowbank, though, where the wind jostles you like an irate tube traveller, is not the best place for the last-ditch attempt.

So Quinn ran up a hill instead. On holiday in the Lake District, he ran the English Fell Running Championships at Keswick, as a guest, and won. That was good enough for the Scottish hill

runners (who don't mess about with qualifying times because every hill is different) and he was immediately selected for the team for the World Mountain Running Trophy to be held at Réunion, this weekend.

Réunion is a French protectorate in the Indian Ocean, about 500 miles east of Madagascar. The race begins in the village of Entre Deux and 15.5 kilometres later finishes 1,770m (5,800ft) up a mountain called Dimitile. It will suit Quinn for this year the World Trophy only goes up the hill and not down again, when one leg is shorter than another, downhill is not such an easy ride.

A word of explanation here: in fell running in England they like to go up and down (and down is dangerously quick), while in mountain running in Europe they just like to go up. The compromise is that each year the two major events (the European Trophy and the World Trophy) alternate between up-and-down and just up. This season the European Trophy was an up-and-downer and the World Trophy is an uppper.

Quinn prepared for Réunion with an outing in Zermatt, Switzerland, last month. That was an upper to end all uppers. They started running at 1,500m (5,000ft) above sea level and finished at 2,440m (8,000ft), where catching air is like chasing butterflies. Quinn might have been Paisley-bred but his spirit must have been reared in the mountains for he finished third. He attributes it to good power-to-weight ratio. He is smallish, 5ft 7in, but very light, 86lb.

The Italians will be in Réunion and the mountain runners speak with awe of a man called Molinari. "He beats everybody by about four minutes," says Quinn. When runners win with that sort of ease, there is suspicion attached — an extra few thousand red blood cells is invaluable when the oxygen is that sparse — though such talk does not come from Quinn.

Quinn is angling for a top 10 place. When he gets to the top of the mountain he might almost feel he could look east to the other side of the Indian Ocean and Malaysia, where the Commonwealth Games are taking place. The thought might cross his mind, but you can feel sure he won't dwell on it.



Natural high... Bobby Quinn puts in the miles

after only a few weeks because the necessary information was always leaking out to the promoters, and in any case attendances at grounds showed an alarming drop and clubs were irritated by the many inconveniences the new system created.

Fifty years ago, and still only 25 years after those first coupons were distributed, the brothers were already multi-millionaires and, overall, the pools were the eighth largest business in Britain, employing almost 25,000 people.

about the Moores' success is that no one before 1923 had persevered as they had. The first reference to betting and football in the Manchester Guardian was in November 1877 with a three-way line remarking "the objectionable practice of betting is a feature of local matches and is frequently indulged in by both players and umpires".

In November 1886 the early fanzine, Football Field of Bolton, offered its readers £1.25.6d if they could pick the winners of the first-round matches in the Lancashire Cup. In September 1889 The Lantern of St Helens in

Lancashire offered a guinea to any reader forecasting the correct results of seven rugby and seven soccer matches one Saturday, and 10s extra for naming score and scorers. A year later Athletic News offered a £5 fortune to anyone selecting every winner in the FA Cup first round.

But the real founder of the football pools may well have been Robert Spittal. In a paper entitled Football Betting, delivered by A J Robertson, a member to the Liverpool Economical & Statistical Society in 1906, he told how four years beforehand a 20-year-old

apprentice cooper in an Edinburgh brewery had begun selling for 2d home-printed coupons which asked for a forecast of exact scores in just six Saturday Scottish league matches.

By the time Robertson gave his paper, Spittal's first prize was two guineas. Later, many other Edinburgh companies besides the breweries enjoyed Spittal's flatter and, by all accounts, up to the first world war he and his associates were having almost 10,000 coupons returned: the stake was then 3d, the first prize £100.

After the soccer war, Spittal resumed his part-

time business hobby but within five years, having had enough, he closed down all his connections and did not operate for the season — the very September Saturday morning in Manchester that the name of Harry Askham's aunt appeared on 4,000 home-made coupons.

And of course, within a year of Sir John Moores' death in 1983, her name also appeared on the FA Cup itself when Littlewood's Pools agreed to sponsor the ancient competition.

Whatever did happen to Harry's aunt?

Rugby Union

Premiership One: Richmond 22 Gloucester 25

Gloucester find place in the sun

Robert Armstrong

GLOUCESTER'S surprise victory at the Madejski Stadium, Reading, laid out their credentials as genuine title contenders. Their fly-half Mark Mapletoft, who scored a brace of tries, and the full-back Chris Catling gave the kind of sharp, aggressive displays that ought to impress the England coach Clive Woodward as he prepares for this season's internationals.

Perhaps Richmond fell for the complacency of Gloucester's director of rugby, who certainly Richard Hill's organised side had not won on their travels since January.

Richmond were a shadow of the slick outfit that ran Newcastle last week, failing to get to grips with Gloucester's magnificent defence.

What the vociferous band of 1,000 Gloucester fans made of the operatic aria transmitted over the PA system before the kick-off is anyone's guess. It was the competitive Gloucester forwards who seemed to be inspired by the Wagnerian atmosphere — black clouds, a heavy downpour and shafts of sunlight — as they repelled Richmond's repeated first-half assaults on their line and moved into a half-time lead they never relinquished.

Phil Vickery, Dave Sims, Rob Adler and the former Bath forward Steve Ojomoh laid firm foundations for this mould-breaking performance with tenacious work around the fringes that set a standard Richmond could not match.

Admittedly the Londoners were cruelly undermined by the first-half loss of their captain Ben Clarke, whose damaged shoulder may rule him out of next weekend's trip to Bath.

What really gave the 7,054

crowd something to savour, though, was the enterprising way Gloucester varied their repertoire in midfield, where the antipodean centres Richard Tombs and the newcomer Simon Mannix combined shrewdly with Mapletoft to pull opponents out of position on the edge of their 22.

Gone are the days when Gloucester's three-quarters were optional extras as Richmond discovered, their new cutting edge leaves deep wounds.

"It was a big step forward for us," admitted Hill, now in his third season as Gloucester's director of rugby. "We knew we had to beat one of the big sides away to move up a level but we didn't expect that to happen so early in the

Gone are the days when the three-quarters were optional extras

season. No one would have given Gloucester a prayer of a win here. The win will do wonders for our confidence."

Hill acknowledged that his England forwards had come back from the summer tour of the southern hemisphere mentally stronger, having had the experience of confronting the All Blacks and the Springboks.

He explained: "We now have a number of senior players with caps under their belts whom our youngsters can look up to. They give the side a focal point on and off the pitch. Last year we would have crumbled under strong pressure such as Richmond applied, but this time it was different."

The sin-bin loomed large in a contest that was abrasive without ever turning ugly. Indeed Richmond, who had Craig Quimball (stamping) and Barry Williams (punching) sidelined together during the final quarter, may well conclude that their indiscipline denied them the chance to make a successful comeback. Deficits of 3-17 and 15-25 proved too big a hurdle to overcome.

John Kingston, Richmond's director of rugby, did not quibble over the referee Steve Lander's decisions — Ojomoh was also sin-binned for the relatively innocuous offence of hands on the back.

"The game was there to be won but we threw it away," said Kingston. "We knew we would have to work hard to avoid going down after an emotionally charged victory over Newcastle. This has brought us down to earth."

Gloucester took the lead with a 14th-minute try by Philippe St André, who was driven over by his pack while Clarke was still on the field. After the interval Richmond's defence was at fault when Mapletoft burrowed over for his first try and, even though Allan Bateman and Craig Quimball raised Richmond hopes with storming touch-downs on the right, the Gloucester No. 10 scored again 15 minutes from time.

Seven minutes from the end Mapletoft's second penalty goal made the points secure, notwithstanding a late short-range try by Andy Cuthbert. **SCORERS:** Gloucester: Yves Bateman, C. Quimball, Cuthbert, Ojomoh, Sims, St André, Mapletoft, 2. Gloucester: St André, 14; Ojomoh, 15; Cuthbert, 17; Bateman, 18; Quimball, 19; Sims, 20; Mapletoft, 21. Gloucester: St André, 14; Ojomoh, 15; Cuthbert, 17; Bateman, 18; Quimball, 19; Sims, 20; Mapletoft, 21. Gloucester: St André, 14; Ojomoh, 15; Cuthbert, 17; Bateman, 18; Quimball, 19; Sims, 20; Mapletoft, 21.

Northampton 25 Harlequins 6

Leonard first red makes it a black day for Quins

Ian Malin at Franklins Gardens sees Saints profit from a sinning prop's stray boot

IT MAY not be kind to kick Saints when they are down, but there will be plenty of sniggers at the plight of Harlequins, whose two try-less defeats suggest there will not be much dancing in the streets of Strawberry Hill next spring.

Kicking a man when he was down cost the Quins dear at Franklins Gardens. When Jason Leonard, England's most capped prop, stamped on the head of the Northampton flanker Budge Pountney midway through the first half, the hopes of the visitors disappeared in a red mist.

Quins were actually winning at the time, thanks to John Scubster's penalty. Reduced to 14 men, with the wing Jason Keyter replaced by a prop, David Barnes, the sinners were duly punished by the Saints. Leonard faces a 60-day ban, threatening his England place in November, though Quins' director of coaching John Gallagher says the club will look at a video of the incident.

It will not make happy viewing, and the remaining 79 minutes would also have been a misery. For this was a dreadful display against a side who themselves have hardly slipped out of second gear this season.

After their heavy defeat at Saracens there were more apologies from Franklins Gardens during the week than from the Oval Office. Northampton have never won a trophy and, with major overseas signings in the French centre David Dantico, the Argentinean hooker-cum-prop Federico Mendez and Western Samoa's Pat Lam, their club owner Keith Barwell has decided that this is the season to buy some silver polish.

In the programme Barwell wrote: "I shall not be afraid to put pressure on players and coaches this year, no matter how big their reputation. There is a voracious appetite for success in Northampton." The coach and fellow club director Ian McGeechan said: "We want to do well for Keith and for the ordinary supporter for whom this club is a way of life."

For Barwell, though, there were ominous signs on Saturday on the field there was little room for the players to prosper. Off the field there were plenty of gaps. A crowd of little more than 5,000 suggests that raised ticket prices and raised voices in committee rooms during another acrimonious summer are testing the loyalty of those ordinary supporters.

tested the patience of Clive Woodward. Not only did the England coach have to watch his stalwart prop receive the first red card of his career but his current captain, Matthew Dawson, limped off with a hamstring injury early in the second half, and Dawson's half-back partner Paul Grayson, England's first-choice fly-half, gave a futile display.

At least Woodward would have been comforted by the sight of Tim Rodber, broken fingers strapped, giving a storming display in Northampton's back row. Not content with putting Rod Jenkins into the game with one tooth-rattling tackle, he laid out Jenkins's replacement Gareth Llewellyn.

For Saints' supporters there was another welcome sight, of Dantico scoring his first try for the club. The lithe, loose-limbed runner and coach and fellow club director Ian McGeechan said: "We want to do well for Keith and for the ordinary supporter for whom this club is a way of life."

For Barwell, though, there were ominous signs on Saturday on the field there was little room for the players to prosper. Off the field there were plenty of gaps. A crowd of little more than 5,000 suggests that raised ticket prices and raised voices in committee rooms during another acrimonious summer are testing the loyalty of those ordinary supporters.



Under the bar... Rob Andrew's clearance avoids the outstretched arms of Bath's Steve Hatley

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID ROGERS

Newcastle 19 Bath 17

Wilkinson gets the numbers right to put a check on Bath

Robert Kitson finds a teenager looking on the bright side on a damp day in Gateshead

IMAGINATION in large bucketfuls was needed at Gateshead. How much bigger a crowd would have made the trip had Alan Shearer not been simultaneously banging them in up the road? Would a dry day or late-season title interest have generated more passion among the few thousand who turned up to rise above the wreckage of England's summer tour?

Not many would choose a wet weekend in Gateshead over sub-tropical Brisbane but Wilkinson already knows the truth behind the glossy brochure images of Test rugby. He has still to watch the entire video of the 76-0 thrashing by Australia but insists it has left no serious mental scars.

"I'm not deliberately avoiding it but I don't think looking at it will do me any good," he said, referring to the 3-rated video nasty he has at home. "I was hoping the tour would establish me but it obviously hasn't. I've burnt a hole of a lot and I'll make my name elsewhere."

According to Andrew, his protégé was not as philosophical a few weeks ago. "He was a bit down and analysing himself too much. We just said, 'Shut up, get out and play some rugby. You're 19, don't become 27 overnight.' We'll destroy him if we're not careful."

Hence the current arrangement, with Andrew still in the box seat despite wearing No. 12. On the day it worked well enough to frustrate Jeremy Guscott and Phil de Glanville but the fortnight's loss of V'a'iga Tuigamala on World Cup qualifying duty will force further shuffles.

A damp squib was briefly enlivened when a quick tap from Steve Hatley helped set up Adeayo Adebayo in the left corner five minutes after half-time to give Bath the lead, but it was the tall Hatley who became the villain when he was penalised for not releasing in the shadow of his own posts four minutes from the end.

Wilkinson, as with all his previous kicks, slotted the penalty and Newcastle bung on comfortably.

Amateur golfers would have identified with Mike Catt some minutes earlier when the wettest squall of the day blew up as he was about to kick what might have proved a vital penalty, but this was a day for the young contender who passed his driving test only a few days ago.

"The conditions made it a very difficult game to win in style," said Dean Ryan, defensively. Turning Defence into Attack, as the promotional posters put it, does not happen overnight.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Try: Ryan. Conversion: Wilkinson. Penalties: Wilkinson 4. Bath: Try: Adebayo. Penalties: Catt 4. Newcastle: Lapp, Naylor, Tuigamala, Andrew, Underwood, Wilkinson, Archer, West, O'Neill, Walton, 14min. Arnold, Ryan (capt). Bath: Adebayo, Catt, de Glanville (capt), Guscott, Adebayo, Carr, Naylor (100), 70; Hogg (100), 61; Long, Ugochi, Rias, Radman, Thomas, Sturges (100), 71; Peters. Referee: B. Campbell (Yorkshire).

Sale 39 Bedford 21

Bedford pay for their profligacy

Bedford pay for their profligacy

PRESUMING the wage cheques arrive from the club's owner Frank Warren today, Bedford can look forward with confidence, at least until the next pay day. Warren, whose assets have been frozen as a result of his legal dispute with Don King, his former partner in boxing promotion, has promised to pay the staff by 2pm. The deadline has focused the minds of everyone at Bedford, not least their director of rugby Geoff Cooke.

"We're living day by day. The coaching staff have done a great job in getting the players focused on rugby in difficult circumstances," he said.

Amid this uncertainty, Bedford

ford did well in their opening Premiership match to get within three points of Sale after going 24-9 behind at Heywood Road on Saturday. The recovery, though, was followed by a collapse caused by too much lost possession.

Despite the ultimately convincing nature of Sale's win, their director of rugby John Mitchell was grim-faced. "We've a long way to go. If we play like that at Saracens next week we'll get hammered."

Sale's injury crisis so early in the season is of acute concern. So is their creaking scrum and poor line-out. But the driving of their forwards and opportunism of their pay backs proved sufficient against limited opponents.

Tom Beir carved out the first of two tries by Matt Moore down the right wing and scored a beauty himself after good work from Richard Smith at scrum-half. The Czech Republic international, Jan Machacek, and Chris Yates scored the others. Compared with Bedford's problems, those at Sale are not nearly so great as they imagine.

West Hartlepool 20 London Irish 44

West cannot see Woods for trees

West Hartlepool 20 London Irish 44

MICHAEL Prestage

WEST Hartlepool's first game at the home of the town's football club was not entirely auspicious. In fact, on the field it was much in keeping with their recent history, when they won only three games in the top flight over two seasons.

However, from a commercial point of view rugby on a Sunday at Victoria Park may prove successful. The attendance was given as a round 2,000, twice their average last season.

West started well and in the opening quarter twice had a player held up over the line as they exerted strong forward pressure. The only reward, though, was two penalties for Steve Vile, who pulled a muscle kicking the second and went off. A sense that West should have done better with their chances quickly proved accurate.

If the home side had been powerful going forward, they were quickly exposed as suspect in defence. Two tries in two minutes midway through the half settled Exile nerves. A break by Kevin Spicer provided Peter Richards with the simplest of scores, and it was followed with an incisive attacking move completed by Justin Bishop.

On the stroke of half-time Niall Woods put up a speculative chip that should have

been covered by Hugo Bishop. Instead the wing fouled up the task and gifted Woods a try. It was to be the Irishman's day as he went on to reach 24 points with five conversions and four penalties to go with that try.

West, 21 points adrift at half-time, conceded another try shortly after the re-start. Poor tackling was again to blame, the beneficiary this time Brendan Venter, who was fed from a scrum and made a 46-metre dash for the line.

The home revival, when it came, was led by Steve John, who collected two tries and helped West take advantage of Rob Gallagher being sin-binned for the Irish for a dangerous tackle.

John's efforts, though, did no more than bring respectability to the scoreline. The last word, deep into extra-time, went to the Irish. Contra-O'Shea ran through demoralised defenders and the Exiles had notched up their first league win in some style.

Friendly Match Cardiff 40 Saracens 19

Cardiff call the shots in phoney war

Paul Rees

CARDIFF have won the first round of their propaganda war with the Welsh Rugby Union. Their decision to turn their back on the Welsh Premier Division was vindicated on Saturday when a crowd of 10,021 turned up at the Arms Park to see them defeat favourites for the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

There was a triumphalist introduction of the Saracens owner Nigel Wray, among others, before the kick-off. No one from the WRU was there to take a bow, which, given some of the chants that went up after Cardiff were assured of victory, was just as well.

Cardiff and the WRU are at war, and the dispute has been given a sharper focus by the Rugby Football Union's acceptance that its leading clubs should be allowed to run their own tournaments. What can the union, or the International Board, do about these firebrands? They have muttered about sanctions being taken against the clubs but nothing has been done. The secession of Cardiff and Swansea has shown that, although the unions think they are holding the reins, the horses have long bolted.

What was significant about Saturday was not the match itself, which was strangely uncompetitive, but the fact that Saracens were in Cardiff. The previous meeting between the sides had been at Southgate in 1975, Cardiff conceding to visit North London after being eliminated from the Welsh Cup.

Saracens won 12-10 in a match which meant everything to them but little to Cardiff, but their place for a regular fixture was refused. The roles were reversed on Saturday: the game meant everything to Cardiff but Saracens have 26 league fixtures which, despite all that was said, mean far more to them.

Which is not to deny Cardiff their victory. After starting humbly, they were prompted by their scrum-half Robert Howley into playing with a purpose and a polish they rarely showed last season.

The anticipated revival of Saracens never came. Unhappy at the substantial referee, they never extended themselves beyond a few flashes of brilliance from their scrum-half, but Cardiff responded in the end as if they had won a cup final.

Saracens looked bewildered at the end and remained locked in their dressing-room while Cardiff celebrated. As the series of friendly fixtures evolve, English clubs will need to include fringe players in their line-ups, players who have a point to prove. Saturday was a carnival atmosphere far from being the real thing.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Try: Howley. Wintle, Hill. Conversion: Jarvis 2. Penalties: Jarvis 6. Saracens: Try: Daniel. Conversion: Johnson. Penalties: Johnson 4. Cardiff: Thomas, Bolton, Davies, Wintle, Hill, Jarvis, Howley (capt), Lewis, Humphreys, John (100), 47min. Stuart Taylor, 70. Referee: J. G. Kitchin.

SCORERS: London Irish: Singer, Conaghan, Thompson, Daniels, Pennington, Bracken (100), 72; Gray (100), 70; Chuter, P. Williams, 70; Jones, 70; 77. Grewcock, Coker, Hill, Depina (capt). Referee: A. W. H. (Cardiff).

Rees taken to hospital as Wasps crash

SWANSEA's pack ensured a fourth successive victory for Wales's two leading clubs in their cross-border friendly competition when Wasps were beaten 28-18 at Loftus Road yesterday.

To add to Wasps' problems their Canadian international fly-half Gareth Rees, still at No. 10 with Alex King recovering from a knee injury, was carried off after a sickening blow to the head in the 50th minute.

Wasps' director of coaching Nigel Melville said: "Gareth took a blow hard enough to knock him out cold. He couldn't even remember the game so we rushed him to Charing Cross Hospital."

The home side's backs Josh Lewsey, Rob Henderson and Shane Roiser always looked dangerous, engineering a try for Kenny Logan before a rilling maul set up Paul Moriarty for a score for the All Whites.

London Scottish 3 Leicester 38

Exiles too open for comfort

Michael Prestage

LONDON SCOTTISH want to change their image but the club chairman Tony Tiaras has stressed that the Exiles will keep the best of the old. That must certainly include the fighting spirit the players showed in the second half.

Dean Richards, a tenacious player himself in his day and now Leicester coach, praised the "doggedness" of the home team in the second period, an attribute he believes may ensure their Premiership One survival. "We expected them to be tougher than Harlequins and they were," was his verdict. Last week the Tigers easily disposed of the Exiles' fellow tenants at The Stoop.

Off the field, the Exiles' board met tonight to look at ways of taking Scottish out of London Scottish.

Although formally the name will remain, a marketing campaign is proposed with a central theme that the club is for all, including the peripatetic English.

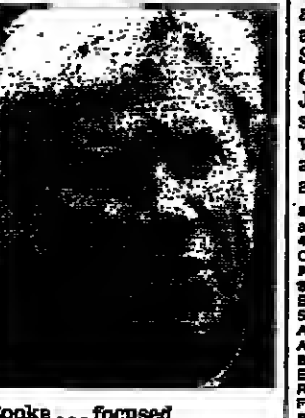
Tiaras explained: "We are a rugby club at a magnificent stadium but people are put off watching us because of the Scottish image. We want to get over to people that you don't have to wear a kilt and a tam-o'-shanter to support us."

Getting the English through the turnstiles may prove as daunting a task as securing Premiership wins this season. They had pulled off the surprise of the opening day of the season with a win over Sale, but this game ran a more predictable course.

Twenty points in as many opening minutes effectively ended the contest as Leicester ran the home side ragged. The Tigers forwards

were rampant and the quality possession was put to good use by the South African Joel Stranasky, dictating everything at fly-half. Leicester may have been disappointed at not putting more points on the board but, after Stranasky had rounded off a move that started on his own 22 and in which he played a key role earlier on, there were tries for Tim Simpson and Niamh Keogh. Stranasky also kicked 18 points for the Tigers, missing the target only once.

SCORERS: London Scottish: Penalties: McKinnon, Leinster: Try: Stranasky, Keogh, Simpson, Gifford, Conversion: Stranasky 2. Penalties: Stranasky 4. London Scottish: Lee, McAuliffe, Davies, Erickson, Sharmah, Sima, Barclay (capt), Stranasky (100), 1-2; Cummins, Burnell, Morgan-Bishop (100), 1-4; Watson, Fern, Davies (100), 1-6; Hunter (capt), 70. Leicester: Simpson, Lloyd, Porter (100), 72; Howley, Eadie (100), 73; Stranasky, Healey, Henderson, Cootner, Gifford, Johnson (100), 74; Watson, Fern, Davies (100), 75; Hunter (capt), 76. Referee: R. Gosselin (Yorkshire).



Cooke... focused

Coleman in a pickle over naked elephant

SCREEN BREAK
Martin Kellner

THE risk of losing my amateur status, I have to admit to watching certain programmes purely for the purpose of this column. Under normal circumstances, for instance, I should be inclined to put as much distance as possible between myself and the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games, but on your behalf I sat through Friday's interminable event, and found it pretty much par for the course; the Nuremberg Rally as directed by Busby Berkeley.

With the greatest respect to the 16th Commonwealth Games and the efforts of the authorities in Kuala Lumpur in staging them, it seems to

have spent some years in an English public school. Pageantry at what is supposed to be a sporting event (mind you, I never see the point of Chris Tarrant either, so I may just be out of touch with popular taste). In my experience sports fans are rarely interested in people parading round in uniforms if there is no competitive edge to it. I am a follower of rugby league, and I reckon we have got pre-match entertainment about right: a couple of grand's worth of fireworks and a bloke parading round the pitch in a silly panther costume.

The razzmatazz in Kuala Lumpur, I suspect, was intended to be more uplifting. Unity Towards Progress it was called, taken from an ancient Malay proverb, according to our commentator. Dancers were dressed as butterflies, birds and bees, "symbolising how a successful society runs," said Coleman. As the butterflies and their mates pranced about, the music became more sombre and a dragon figure entered the tables.

Call me old-fashioned, but I felt even we knuckle-headed sports fans might have been entranced to interpret that message, but Coleman felt obliged to refer to his script. "The mood changes," he said in the voice he normally reserves for someone coming up on the outside at the final bell in the 800 metres, "as powers from within and outside cause trouble."

Once the racing starts I am sure Coleman's eccentric commentary will be as much fun as ever, but the opening ceremony left me with the distinct impression that after all these years his appetite for such pageantry may have become as dull as mine.

The fireworks and animal costumes I mentioned, by the way, were introduced into the rugby league as a brand-building exercise when Rupert Murdoch bought into the sport, but there are apparently no immediate plans to rename Manchester United the Manchester City, or to rename Arsenal the London Gunners. I should have heard, since discussion of Murdoch's planned takeover of United was omnipresent on sports programmes this week, and soon became about as dull as Bill and Hillary jokes.

Also, given the cross-media nature of Murdoch's tentacles, it was necessary to embark on some heavy and tedious deconstruction before accepting anything that was said on the subject.

Brian Woolnough, for instance, Murdoch's Sun, launched his discussion of BSKY's Hold The Back Page by quoting from an article by Oliver Holt in Murdoch's Times. As Richard Littlejohn (the Sun) said on Radio 5 Live's phone-in: "I'm on a high, but I can't help but since I work for the guy."

With other media groups now sniffing round football, too, it's clearly not only Murdoch's people we are going to have to learn to distrust, as this page looks like rumormongering about as grey as Mahoto the elephant.

I was reminded of a scene from the Marx Brothers' film Duck Soup

me that the more insignificant and footling the games, the more important is the opening.

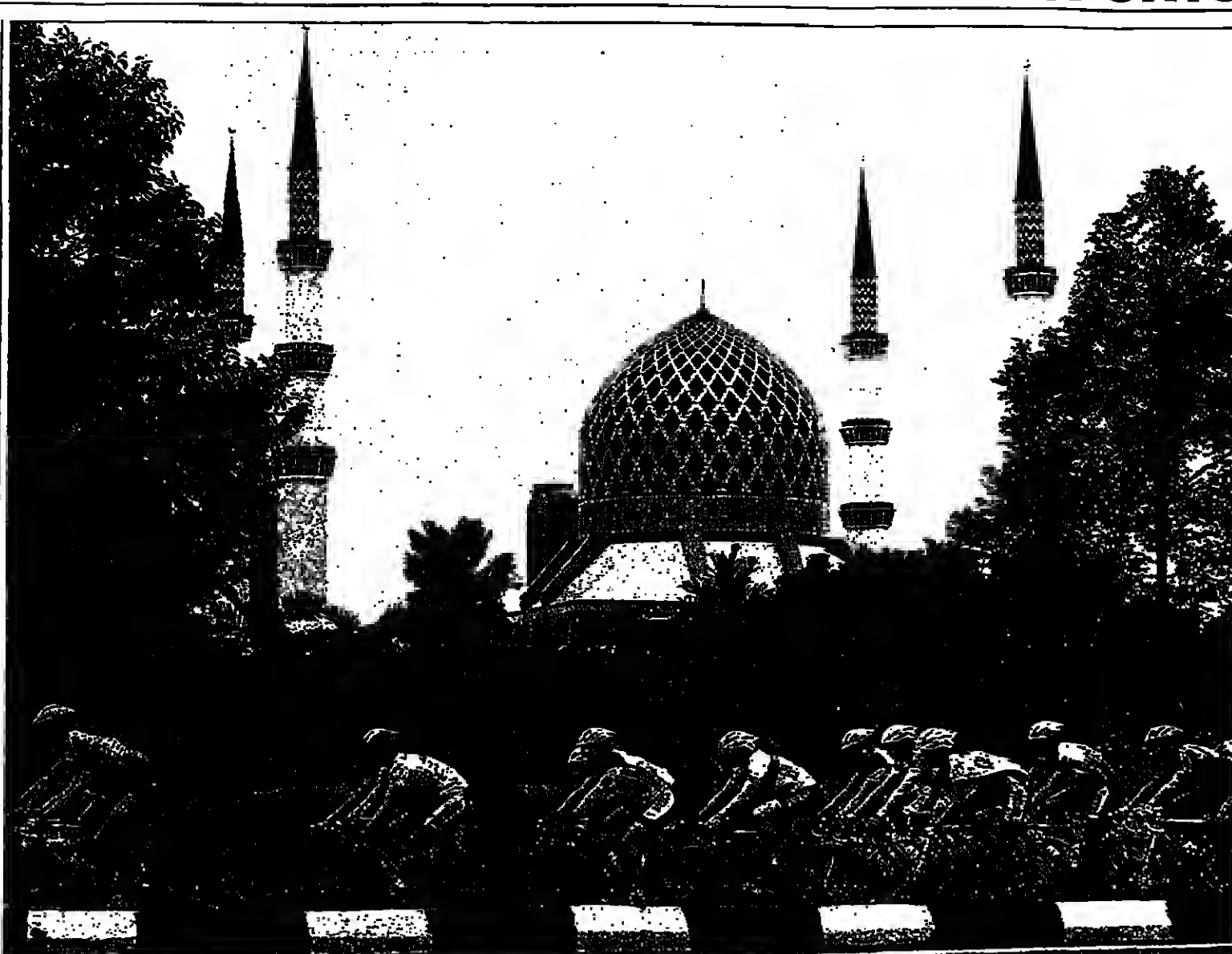
As a 16-gun salute was followed by hundreds of dancing girls forming a hibiscus, the national flower of Malaysia, to a lyric that could have come from one of Walt Disney's less hard-nosed efforts, I was reminded irresistibly of the Marx Brothers' film Duck Soup.

There are two ways a commentator can handle this nonsense: like Wogan does, with an ironically arched eyebrow, which can actually become a little arch itself, or by playing it absolutely straight and reading out a welter of statistics from the press pack.

Guess which route David Coleman chose. I am as interested in elephants as the next man, but I cannot help but feel that Coleman supplied more information about the elephant bearing the Queen's message than any sports fan did tuning in to Grandstand could possibly want.

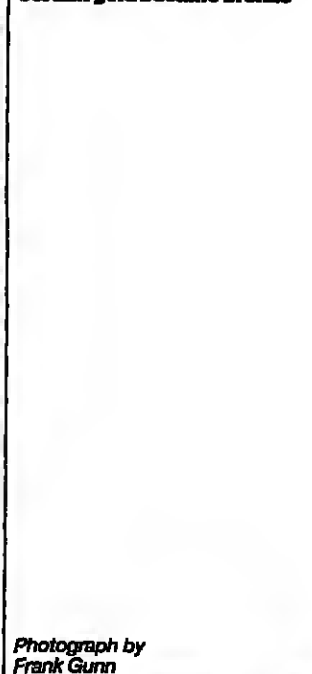
Mahoto was the name of the elephant, a six-year-old male, 1,300 kilograms (13 tonnes) in weight, and bred in one of Malaysia's four royal states. It was dressed, said Coleman, by three handlers. But it turned out he had misread the script, and the clearly naked elephant was escorted by three handlers, who were dressed by the master of the royal wardrobe or some such.

Once Mahoto had relieved himself of the royal message, it was delivered by Prince Edward in the style of a Sportsman's Weight machine that



PARTING SHOT

Ride before a fall... women in the Commonwealth Games road race pass a mosque in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Anne Wilson, aiming to maintain Australia's unbeaten record in the event, was yards from the line after 92km when her foot slipped off the pedal and certain gold became bronze.



Photograph by Frank Gunn

Weekend results

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNHAM PREMIERSHIP						
Leinster	3	Leinster	38	Leinster		
Newcastle	18	Bath	1	1		
Northampton	22	Harlequin	25	2		
Richmond	25	Gloucester	20	2		
Sale	3	Bedford	3	2		
West Hartlepool	20	Leinster	4	2		
P W D L F A Pts						
Leinster	2	2	0	87	18	4
Gloucester	2	2	0	54	44	4
Scarlets	1	1	0	34	7	3
Leinster	2	1	0	68	49	3
Leinster	2	1	0	30	48	3
Gloucester	2	1	0	163	54	3
Bath	2	1	0	53	46	3
Northampton	2	1	0	32	40	3
Newcastle	2	1	0	56	56	3
Leinster	2	1	0	29	46	3
Wigan	1	0	0	27	36	3
Bedford	1	0	0	21	39	6
W Hartlepool	1	0	0	20	44	4
Harlequin	1	0	0	21	74	4

Italian Grand Prix



Prancing men... the Ferrari team celebrate the first and second places of Michael Schumacher and Eddie Irvine at Monza after the McLarens ran into trouble and managed only a limping fourth place for Mika Hakkinen. SIMON WILKINSON

Schumacher pulls level with Hakkinen

Ferrari make clean sweep after Coulthard's blow-up

Alan Henry at Monza sees a home one-two that leaves the title race tied with two to go

MICHAEL Schumacher set up a grandstand finish for the title by producing the precious victory which 125,000 tifosi had dreamed of in the Italian Grand Prix here yesterday. After the McLaren-Mercedes drivers Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard hit technical trouble, the German surged home to head the second Ferrari one-two of the season, Eddie Irvine finishing 37 seconds behind him.

The Ferrari drivers were joined on the podium by Michael's younger brother Ralf, who finished a strong third in his Jordan-Honda.

The Ferrari team leader now goes into the penultimate round of the championship, the Luxembourg Grand Prix at the Nürburgring on September 27, tied on 80 points with Hakkinen, who struggled home fourth after an eventful 33 laps on this high-speed track.

"After our poor performance at Hockenheim, which is also a low-down-force circuit, we thought Monza would be very difficult for us," said Schumacher. "But all the hard work paid off today. Now I am looking forward to the Nürburgring and Suzuka, as both circuits should suit our car."

Even after Schumacher had secured his first pole position of the season here on Ferrari's home ground it seemed he would be thwarted as the McLarens catapulted through from the second row to take first and second places. "My start was terrible," said Schumacher. "I got everything wrong. I was lucky to catch up Jacques [Villeneuve] in the second corner to get back behind Eddie and he let me by, which enabled me to catch up the McLarens."

Hakkinen, who had started in the spare car after an engine problem during the warm-up, immediately encountered a handling imbalance which obliged him to relinquish the lead to Coulthard after seven laps. Coulthard pulled steadily away only to stop with an engine failure which cast a pall of grey-blue across the circuit on the exit of the 130mph Curva Grande.

Hakkinen and Schumacher arrived to find the road apparently blocked by a smoke-screen. Having braked to near walking pace, the German dodged ahead of Hakkinen into the lead at the next chicane.

"The car was very strong, the chassis set-up working well and then the engine tightened up as I came out of the first chicane and the en-

gine blew," said Coulthard. "It was very disappointing because we had such a good car and a performance advantage at this circuit."

Schumacher edged away from Hakkinen with Irvine third ahead of Villeneuve, Ralf Schumacher and Alexander Wurz's Benetton.

Hakkinen had to struggle with his McLaren's handling imbalance until his routine refuelling stop at the end of lap 35, two laps after Schumacher made his stop. On fresh tyres the Finn's McLaren was clearly in better shape and he settled down to trim the leading Ferrari's advantage from six seconds on lap 36 to just over two seconds 10 laps later when he suddenly found himself pitched into a massive spin as he approached the second chicane.

The cause was a serious brake problem and he was lucky to escape intact as his car spun wildly across the gravel trap. He resumed still second, ahead of Irvine, but all chance of catching Schumacher's Ferrari had vanished. Merely surviving the dire handling, exacerbated by next to no brakes, became Hakkinen's priority. In the end he was grateful to get anything from the race.

Damon Hill, the Spa winner, harnessed a two-stop strategy to vault through from 14th on the grid to sixth, putting both Jordans in the points for the second successive race.

Full results from Monza

Pos	Driver	Team	Time
1	Michael Schumacher (Germany)	Ferrari	1:17:53.572
2	Eddie Irvine (Britain)	Ferrari	17:57.8 sec behind
3	Ralf Schumacher (Germany)	Jordan-McLaren	1:18:15.200
4	Mika Hakkinen (Finland)	McLaren-Mercedes	1:18:57.1
5	Jean Alesi (France)	Sauber-Petronas	1:19:17.2
6	Damon Hill (Britain)	Jordan-McLaren	1:20:59.9

Other finishers

7	Heinz-Harald Frey (Austria)	Benetton	1:21:11.1
8	Stefano Modena (Italy)	Benetton	1:21:11.1
9	Roberto Benetton (Italy)	Benetton	1:21:11.1
10	Andrea Montermini (Italy)	Benetton	1:21:11.1
11	Johnny Herbert (Britain)	Benetton	1:21:11.1
12	Mark Blundell (Britain)	Benetton	1:21:11.1
13	Gregor Beyer (Germany)	Benetton	1:21:11.1
14	Christian Fittipaldi (Brazil)	Benetton	1:21:11.1
15	Luca Badoer (Italy)	Benetton	1:21:11.1
16	Pedro Pablo Kuczajski (Argentina)	Benetton	1:21:11.1

Having failed to score a point prior to the ninth round, Jordan now have their sights on beating the old

Drivers' championship

1	Hakkinen	80
2	Schumacher	80
3	Villeneuve	72
4	Irvine	72
5	Fittipaldi	64
6	Schumacher	56
7	Fernandez	48
8	Alesi	40
9	Herbert	32
10	Salvo	24
11	Frederic Haudouin (France)	16
12	Frederic Haudouin (France)	8

Constructors' championship

1	McLaren-Mercedes	160
2	Ferrari	160
3	Williams	80
4	Benetton	80
5	Jordan	80

Car failures put brake on McLaren

James Mitchell says consistency is key to success

MERCEDES might produce the most dependable road cars in the world, but it is a lack of reliability which could cost the German manufacturer's Formula One team the chance of winning their first World Championship since 1955.

David Coulthard was on course to win yesterday's Italian Grand Prix for McLaren-Mercedes until his engine failed on lap 17. Had the Scot taken the 10 points at Monza, his teammate Mika Hakkinen would still be leading Michael Schumacher in the title chase. As it is, the pair are equal on points with two races to go.

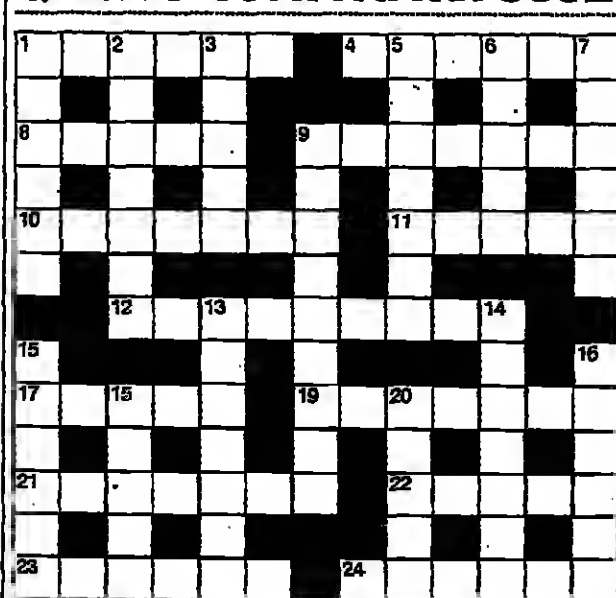
Coulthard's retirement,

while he was pulling away at the front of the field, was his third of the year, and the second caused by engine failure. Schumacher has not had an engine go since the first race of the season.

But it was not just Coulthard's car that had problems yesterday. Hakkinen's spin with seven laps to go, from which he was lucky to get back into the race and pick up a valuable three points for fourth place, was caused by brake failure. McLaren's brakes were on their limits at Monza and problems with Hakkinen's car's handling in the first half of the race seem to have put his brakes under more strain than was expected.

The title battle continues in two weeks' time at the Luxembourg Grand Prix on Germany's Nürburgring, a home race for both Schumacher and Mercedes.

Quick Crossword No. 8852



- Across**
- 1 Sprightly (5)
 - 2 Climb (5)
 - 3 Dizzy (5)
 - 4 Speckmen (7)
 - 5 Component (7)
 - 6 Creek (5)
 - 7 Right side of ship (5)
 - 8 Fear (5)
 - 9 Sad (7)
 - 10 Income (7)
 - 11 Vigilant (5)
 - 12 Choose — the best (5)
 - 13 Current (5)
 - 14 Exhaust (7)
 - 15 Zodiac sign (5)
 - 16 Method (5)
 - 17 Smith's block (5)
 - 18 Core (5)
- Down**
- 1 Serrated (5)
 - 2 Disrobe (7)
 - 3 Seasoning plant (5)
 - 4 Endurance (7)
 - 5 Drive out (5)
 - 6 Agreement (5)
 - 7 Caesar's dying words (2,2,5)
 - 8 Calendar (7)

Solution No. 8851

Montgomerie sails home in the wind

David Davies at Forest of Arden

WITH nine holes remaining in the One 2 One British Masters yesterday, no fewer than nine players were within a stroke of one another and thinking win. But it is the oldest adage in golf that a tournament does not really start until the homeward half on Sunday.

It is then, amid thoughts of what a win could do, that tension grows, the swing begins to seize up and the mind sends out false messages. It is then that winners emerge and journeymen retreat, and yesterday one of the British game's most prolific winners, Colin Montgomerie, emerged in front yet again.

In a wind that blustered treacherously, on greens that were far from true, the Scot came home in 34, two under par, the lowest back nine of the final 21 players, to complete a round of 69. It was good enough for a total of 261, seven under par, a shot ahead of Eduardo Romero and Pierre Fulke and two ahead of Paolo Quirici, Andrew Oldcorn and Ignacio Garcia.

Montgomerie won £125,000 which, though not sending him soaring up the Volvo Rankings — he remains third behind Lee Westwood and

Darren Clarke — at least puts him in with a chance of winning that honour again. Not that he particularly wants to. There are five been-there-done-that T-shirts in his wardrobe already and he is determined to concentrate on bigger things in future.

"I'm very proud of five," he said, "but whether it's five or six, I'm not really bothered." Nor should he be. It is exceedingly unlikely that anyone will ever get near his record.

Nevertheless the current rankings leaders will be aware of a hefty presence immediately behind them. Westwood leads Clarke by 28,396 and Montgomerie by 234,446, which in terms of prize-money these lucrative days is nothing at all.

The nine players in theoretical contention after nine holes were Fulke at six under and eight at five under: Montgomerie, Romero, Quirici, Oldcorn, Garcia, Daniel Chopra, Greg Owen and Marc Farry.

One by one they fell away or failed to apply any pressure, and when, at the 13th and 14th holes, Montgomerie holed putts of two and eight feet for birdies he not only moved to the front, he spread despondency among his challengers. Once ahead, particularly on this course where in five appearances he has been first, second, second, second and first, he rarely falters.

It was a welcome win for the Scot. He began the season with six straight top-10 finishes in Europe but in his last four events he has been 42nd, missed cut, missed cut and 12th. In order to get his game back he had to bite the bullet and go back to the coach he dismissed two years ago, Bill Ferguson.

The split had come when Montgomerie was No. 2 in the world. "I wanted to get to No. 1 and I thought I needed to change my game, in reality," he said yesterday, "all I needed was to hole a few more putts."

Ferguson had been his coach for over 20 years, "ever since I used to caddle for him,

aged 10, in the captain/pro matches at Ilkley golf club."

Montgomerie knew he needed to go back to him when, in the US PGA Championship, his long game "just broke down. It was just awful."

He called Ferguson and said yesterday: "It was a call that I perhaps should have made much earlier. I've never struggled before, and that was what the game had become. But he got me sorted out and that is why I'm in this position now."

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